

STRANGE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

By STANLEY CATCHPOL.

V.—PUFFERS.

The following may be considered a confession: we therefore relate it as near as possible in the "Puffer's" own words. It was told us by one of the tribe.

"You ask me what a 'Puffer' is? and say that you have never heard the word before. Very likely not; it is a name only used among the fraternity. How I became one, and made a fortune by 'puffing,' you'll discover as my narrative proceeds.

"I had a fair education for a lad, and was apprenticed to a furrier, a large wholesale house in the City. All went smoothly until they made me one of their provincial travellers. It was a niggardly firm; they not only paid badly, but acted very shabbily towards us, and it was not long before I was let into the secret how to make a bit of money on the quiet.

"When my sample cases were made up and superintended by the principal, I would go into his private room to receive cash and a few parting injunctions. A couple of sealskin jackets were then slipped in by a confederate, which on my tour I could easily dispose of for thirty or forty guineas each. On my returning we would divide the spoil. I was no fool, although I was only a beginner. I was as well aware I was robbing my employer as I know I am telling you this, and was certain that one day I must be discovered.

"A man to get on in the world must possess capital; so, instead of spending my overplus money, I laid it by. In four years I had six hundred pounds hidden away in a safe bank. Not a single individual but myself knew of it. I never kept the bank-book about me; that was also lodged in safe custody; so if anything happened, and I should be sent to prison, the authorities couldn't help themselves out of my money for my maintenance. Being anxious to make money too quickly was our ruin; we over-did it; there was bit of a row, and we were dismissed. The governors would not charge us, as it would throw discredit upon the firm. My partner had just enough cash to take him to America, and there I lost sight of him. I had a bolder face than he, and could even meet my late employers without feeling any qualms. I had only to place my hand in my pocket and feel enough was there, if judiciously expended, to last me a few years. It is astonishing how bold a bit of money makes a man.

"After a few weeks' idleness, I resolved to purchase a small public-house, and it was in that business I learnt the art of 'puffing.' It was not long before I perceived I had been 'had,' that is, in fact, I had paid a great deal too much. The house would have been dear at any price. The governors would not charge us, as it would throw discredit upon the firm. My partner had just enough cash to take him to America, and there I lost sight of him. I had a bolder face than he, and could even meet my late employers without feeling any qualms. I had only to place my hand in my pocket and feel enough was there, if judiciously expended, to last me a few years. It is astonishing how bold a bit of money makes a man.

"The puff I gave to the house, not only inside and outside, but in all provincial papers, caught the notice of a man named O'Connor. The bars were crowded with people every time he came; my brewers' accounts so altered and made out as if I paid them four times the amount that I was in the habit of doing; so with the distillers and other tradesmen. My own books showed the takings to be a hundred more a week than they really were. I said 'Snip,' O'Connor snapped. Out I came, not only with my own money but two hundred to boot.

"I felt half inclined at that time to give up the public line altogether, but fate ruled otherwise, and it so happened in this way. I was out one day strolling along, cogitating upon what was the best to be done, when suddenly from behind I received a heavy slap upon the shoulder, and a loud voice in my ear shouted, 'Well done, Mr. Bob Chesee, you had me nicely.'

"I turned round and there stood O'Connor. Now, if ever there was a good sensible Irishman in this world, it was the man I sold my pub to. Instead of threatening to dash my brains out, or give me into the hands of the police for swindling him, he shook me heartily by the hand, and ushered me into a house, over a bottle of fizz we exchanged vows of eternal partnership.

"He had been all his life a gentleman's coachman, but a very tricky one, and many a time has made me roar with laughter at some of his yarns—how he had bamboozled his master out of fifty or a hundred pounds at a time. O'Connor, as I have stated, was a sensible man. As I had plucked him, would I assist him in fleecing some one else? We would then unite our capital and start afresh.

"Our modus operandi was this. It was my duty to get acquainted with as many gentlemen's butlers and coachmen as I could who had amassed a few hundreds and were desirous of becoming what old publicans call 'amateur licensed victuallers.'

"It is astonishing how anxious the male servants of a wealthy man's establishment are to become the owners of a public-house. I soon fixed my eye upon a man and his wife, who for twenty-five years had been in one family, and had saved between them nine hundred pounds. So soon as I discovered he had the needful, I also displayed plenty, and over a few glasses of toddy one evening I ascertained he was mad to leave his berth and set up in business for himself. I then and then told him I knew of a house which could be disposed of privately—little gold mine—a thorough genuine concern to a couple like him and his wife. A thousand a year could be cleared. The man who kept it had also been a coachman, but rich relations dying in Australia and leaving him money, he would dispose of his business at a terrible sacrifice.

"You may depend I laid it on thick. Pretending to put him on his guard before he said anything to the present occupier, he was to go any time in the day and look for himself how the bars were always crowded. I always knew when he or his wife were going. O'Connor was up to the move. Two barmaids, a barman, the governor himself, hard at work serving the youngsters coming in for halves or quarters of gin or rum, with dozens of men in front drinking two or three of whisky. We piled the ale on and 'puffed' it up, and showed all things in such a business-like way that an old stag who had been in and out of forty houses would have been deceived.

"Fifty pounds were put down as a guarantee of good faith by the worthy coachman. A few sovereigns put in the hands of the proper person overcame all difficulty of transfer. The house was bought, and the coachman was sold to the tune of seven hundred pounds.

"He hadn't been there many weeks before he came to two conclusions. The first, that he was a jingins, and had been fairly done out of his money. The second, to end his life. In a fit of mad despair he placed a revolver to his temple and plastered the walls of his bed-room with his own brains. The widow went dotty, and died in a lunatic asylum.

"The next house O'Connor and I bought was in the East-end. It was a dilapidated, wretched hole of a place; but we could see a thousand stars in the face. We got it for a mere song. I say we—O'Connor was always Mr. Boniface, while I was ever on the look out for a likely purchaser. It didn't take long to put the place in good repair. A hundred pounds ready money to a good jobbing builder goes a long way.

"As I said, it was a hole when we took it, but in our hands it was metamorphosed into a gin palace. I made pals with everybody in the neighbourhood, and brought the trade up to that extent that where in the old hands they sold a pint of gin, we sold a gallon.

"Things were now ripe for a transfer. I had had under my observation a party for some little time. This individual was the son of an old chef, who had lately died, leaving his son a couple of thousand. Instead of keeping to his father's business, which was a well-remunerated one—for the old man had been drawing four hundred a year screw—he must dabble in the licensed victuallers' line. It is extraordinary how eager

young fellows are to be what they call their own masters, and it generally ends by their becoming poor and forcing them to accept a less exalted birth.

"I had so ingratiated myself into the favour of this 21 years' old man of experience, that it required not half the usual amount of 'puff' for him to become the purchaser of our house in the East. He did what I consider was very foolish—he gave up his situation of three pounds a week; taking a wife at the same time that he took the pub of O'Connor's hands for the nice little sum of fifteen hundred pounds cash down. Not bad in eighteen months! He managed to hold out a couple of years, and then made a still greater mess. He was insured for eight hundred, so to set himself straight, as he thought, he would have aflare-up; and he did, which cost him the life of a child, as well as the death of a maid-servant. The inquiry was so searching that he was convicted as an incendiary and got five years.

"During the time the son of the old chef was losing his money, we became possessors of another pub. This, similar to every one which came into our possession, was a free house. We would not have anything to do with brewers or distillers' houses; they knew a little too much for the likes of us.

"Again I was on the look-out for a pigeon, and invariably he is found if one looks long enough.

"There was a deceased old colonel's widow, who was left a snug sum by her husband, but hardly sufficient to support her as she desired, so to increase her income she accepted the post of lady housekeeper to a wealthy old bachelor. Now the old man, who was a sworn celibate, had a very smart young fellow who acted in a double capacity as personal attendant and private secretary. The widow was a buxom woman of forty, with a few charms still lingering about her as if they were loth to leave.

"It frequently happened that she and the young secretary were brought very close together, generally over a tête-à-tête cup of tea. I don't wish to reflect anything against them morally, but still it did look a bit odd. They resigned their respective appointments suddenly, and at the same time got married, and in due course a bouncing baby boy came very mysteriously into existence. What the comely matron loved best, the young father or her son, matters little; however, she was devoted very much to both, for she drew the snug sum out of the bank and invested it in a small hotel, with a tap adjoining, belonging to O'Connor and myself. I am not going to tell you how we came to own this—I still have my liberty and wish to enjoy it—but it came into our possession in a very crooked manner. I mentioned at the beginning that I had once been a bagman, and among that lot I was tolerably popular. Where these men can obtain cheap and good accommodation they will go, for they don't like to pay more than they can help. As some scores of these gentlemen were leaving London about this time, I very kindly gave them an invitation to visit me, not as a customer, but as a friend, in the house I had purchased a few miles out.

"Many of these jovial fellows of the road took the hint, paid me a visit, some doing a little business in the town, others nothing. During the time these people were popping in and out, some going, others coming, plenty of departures, plenty of fresh arrivals, the buxom wife, with the bouncing baby boy and smart young husband, were in a first floor sitting-room watching the business going on for a fortnight, and were at last astounded that it was a thorough paying concern, and I was warmly thanked for introducing to their notice so safe a venture. When it was settled that we were to buy, O'Connor's impetuosity nearly laid him open to suspicion. His hand trembled as if he had been smitten with ague as he held it out to receive a cheque for £3,000. I was a witness to the transfer, but with my usual sang froid calmly spoke a few cheering words to the new hotel proprietor.

"In less than one hour the cheque was turned into cash and safe in our keeping.

"I am very sorry to have to relate, that under the new management the business did not prosper.

"The thought of impending ruin over her head soon destroyed the beauty of the once happy, smiling, plump widow. She became morose, and didn't care a bit how things went. She took to stimulants, thinking by such means to drown her cares. If it gave her internal enjoyment, it made her outward appearance anything but prepossessing.

"One day O'Connor and I were sipping a cup of black coffee, with a nip of good old cognac. A choice cigar threw in curls the smoke of contentment round our heads, when, accidentally glancing at a newspaper, I saw that the smart young husband had put his hand upon all the cash he could and had gone off without saying farewell to wife or child.

"The good old bachelor, hearing of the sad predicament of his once lady housekeeper, allowed her a small pension. After this we had a number of minor concerns, yielding a profit of a few hundreds only, but all disposed of by 'puffing.' Having heard so much of my life, you, for a certainty, have put me down for a heartless scoundrel, but I have done no more than thousands of men do in this city—live upon the fat of the land, rolling in riches obtained by playing upon the credulity of others.

"But I will now relate an incident, the crowning one, previous to our retiring from the business of 'puffing' to pass the remainder of our days in ease and comfort—how, by actually committing a fraud, I did an exceedingly good turn, and brought punishment upon the head of one who richly deserved it.

"Poor girl," he thought, "poor Mary, so they told her he was dead;

For me she could be happy, for she could marry Ned.

It's a crooked path for all of us, but the Lord'll make it straight;

And load them into happiness, although it comes but late."

In after years poor Mary remembered how he said,

As he left her in the morning, "You would have married Ned,

And been blithe and happy, but for me; but, lass, remember, too,

That to make you as you once were, I'd give more than life for you."

That day a great explosion shakes the surrounding hills.

And the hearts of wives and mothers with a wild, fierce horror fills;

And the news of the disaster to the pit's mouth many drew,

For lives, to many of them dear, were lost that day, they knew.

Jack's wife was there amongst them, and wildly 'midst the dead.

She hunted for her husband, and by her side was Ned.

Soon they found him dead, disfigured, as they thought, and gently back.

Drew the weeping woman from the last of Collier Jack.

Years after, far beyond the sea, when the western sun was red,

A man lay slowly dying, with strangers round his bed;

Strange fingers smoothed his pillows, strange hands would close his eyes,

But the light that shone within them was not borrowed from the skies.

"They are happy now," he murmured, "though their happiness was late;

For the Lord has touched the crooked path, and made it plain and straight."

No one will know the story, but angel hands may write

Of a life divine in sacrifice, whose light went out.

long time my acquaintance had idolised a certain woman, and eventually married her; she did not care a brass farthing for him—of which he was in happy ignorance. I soon discovered she was ambitious to possess business property in her own right; I suggested she should purchase O'Connor's. The bookmaker, to gratify her whim, paid ten thousand pounds for it, handing the title deeds to her. She was now, she thought, absolutely independent of her husband, and brought her paramour into the house. There was a terrible to-do, followed by a divorce, which she desired. It cost her only a few hundred pounds to be free. She now thought she was a very happy woman, in possession of her favourite lover and valuable property. As we had sold to the bookmaker, and not to the woman, and he refused to prosecute us for fraud, we were safe, and since has often congratulated O'Connor and myself in duping him, for it brought his adulterous wife to beggary.

"A Constant Reader" writes:—

"Could you give me a recipe for cleaning a navy blue straw hat?" A letter from "Mots" says:—"I have tried many times to dye my old white hats a decent black, but always failed. Can you help me?" "Milliner," tells me she "has a few white straw hats" which she wishes to dye black. For this purpose she bought "a special dye for straws," but finds, although it looks well at first, it is liable to peel off, showing the white below, and makes me to let her know of something that would stain the straw. Unless the grease naturally in the straw or largely acquired through wear, is first thoroughly removed from the hat, no dye, however perfect in itself, will give a satisfactory result. This remark applies equally to each of my three correspondents, and very possibly the "special dye for straws" referred to by the last-named would have answered better if "Milliner," before applying it, had pre-dyed her hat to receive it. A pretty strong solution of washing soda will remove the grease. The best preparation you can make is to add to the strong soda and water a solution of gluten, let these stand for twenty-four hours, then strain off the clear liquor, and let the hats stand in it for twelve hours. You can make a black dye sufficient for, say six hats, with a pound of logwood chips, four ounces and a half of bruised gall, and one ounce of turmeric. The hats should afterwards be steeped in a black liquor made with acetate of iron. You can try, but for amateurs it is not always easy to manipulate in a small way the regular processes of dyeing. On behalf, therefore, of my two first correspondents above, and any other readers who wish to try household hat dyeing, I would recommend a far simpler method from which I have known admirable results. To clean a blue straw hat brush out dust, then wash it well in strong soda water to get rid of the grease. Dissolve a small quantity of gum arabic in a very little water—the less water you use the better—have a penny bottle of good blue ink, warm this by means of a hot water bath, and thoroughly mix the dissolved gum with it. Allow the hat to drain and become partly dry, though still damp, before you apply the warm ink and gum, which should be put on with a brush thinly and evenly; one coat will probably be sufficient; if a second is required, do not apply it until the first coat is about half dry. The same process will dye a white hat black by using two or three penny bottles of black ink if necessary, and giving the hat as many coats as it requires to produce a good colour.

JACK ALLROUND.

"A Constant Reader" writes:—"Could you give me a recipe for cleaning a navy blue straw hat?" A letter from "Mots" says:—"I have tried many times to dye my old white hats a decent black, but always failed. Can you help me?" "Milliner," tells me she "has a few white straw hats" which she wishes to dye black. For this purpose she bought "a special dye for straws," but finds, although it looks well at first, it is liable to peel off, showing the white below, and makes me to let her know of something that would stain the straw. Unless the grease naturally in the straw or largely acquired through wear, is first thoroughly removed from the hat, no dye, however perfect in itself, will give a satisfactory result. This remark applies equally to each of my three correspondents, and very possibly the "special dye for straws" referred to by the last-named would have answered better if "Milliner," before applying it, had pre-dyed her hat to receive it. A pretty strong solution of washing soda will remove the grease. The best preparation you can make is to add to the strong soda and water a solution of gluten, let these stand for twenty-four hours, then strain off the clear liquor, and let the hats stand in it for twelve hours. You can make a black dye sufficient for, say six hats, with a pound of logwood chips, four ounces and a half of bruised gall, and one ounce of turmeric. The hats should afterwards be steeped in a black liquor made with acetate of iron. You can try, but for amateurs it is not always easy to manipulate in a small way the regular processes of dyeing. On behalf, therefore, of my two first correspondents above, and any other readers who wish to try household hat dyeing, I would recommend a far simpler method from which I have known admirable results. To clean a blue straw hat brush out dust, then wash it well in strong soda water to get rid of the grease. Dissolve a small quantity of gum arabic in a very little water—the less water you use the better—have a penny bottle of good blue ink, warm this by means of a hot water bath, and thoroughly mix the dissolved gum with it. Allow the hat to drain and become partly dry, though still damp, before you apply the warm ink and gum, which should be put on with a brush thinly and evenly; one coat will probably be sufficient; if a second is required, do not apply it until the first coat is about half dry. The same process will dye a white hat black by using two or three penny bottles of black ink if necessary, and giving the hat as many coats as it requires to produce a good colour.

I am requested by "T. T." and "Constant Reader" for "full directions" for making a sponge cake. "T. T." adds, "none of my attempts are at all like the cakes we buy in shops." To work up the simple ingredients lightly is the secret of success. Cooks differ in their methods of doing this, but all who succeed must bear in mind that to separate and expand the albumen of the egg is what they aim at, and this is best attained by a constant steady beating or whisking of the mixture in one direction; if you work in an unsteady backwards and forwards jerking motion, you will break up and destroy the expanded air cells as fast as you create them. Another rule to be observed is, that once you begin to whisk the eggs and sugar, you must not stop until the whole process is complete. If your arm tires get someone to take the work up, but to stop even for half a minute will ensure a heavy, unsightly mass in no way like a sponge cake. The ingredients are, say one pound of eggs, three-quarters of a pound of finely sifted caster sugar, three-quarters of a pound of flour, and three or four drops of essence of lemon. Let the pan you mix in be of ample size, break up the eggs, add the sugar, and commence to whisk them together in the same direction, always with the steady persistent stroke I have spoken of. This must be kept up for about half an hour; then add the drops of essence of lemon, beating it in with the same steady stroke. Then mix in the flour carefully, and as you mix it through the beaten eggs, add a spoonful of oil lightly and steadily, so that this stage may beginners fail by either not sufficiently mixing the flour, or by tumbling the mass about that the result is a poor and heavy cake. When the flour is in, the mixture should be at once put into the tins, previously prepared by being well greased, and caster sugar dusted over them. As soon as you put in the sugar turn the tins upside down, and tap them to shake off the loose dust. The above ingredients will make two one-pound cakes. Bake them in a moderate oven for about thirty-five minutes.

In reply to "Sparrow," birdlime can be made with either holly bark or oil. It is not always easy to obtain the holly bark, therefore I give a recipe for making it with oil. You will require an old pot or vessel that can stand the fire without danger of breaking, as the oil is very inflammable and will want a lot of oiling. Whatever you boil it in should not be more than one-third full. Into this vessel put linseed oil, and place it on a slow fire and stir it without ceasing until it thickens to the required consistency. You can then stir it now and again by dipping the stirring stick into water, and then with finger and thumb stir it will stick well; a slow boiling for about four hours will probably bring it to a proper state of tenacity. As soon as you are satisfied about that pour it into cold water; it will then be ready for use.

I give in answer to "E. E. P." a recipe for making a macaroni pudding. For two ounces of small macaroni one pint of milk will be sufficient. Boil the milk, sweetened to taste with lump sugar, then break up the macaroni into small

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THE FIRM

OF GIRDLESTONE.

A ROMANCE OF THE

UNROMANTIC.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

AUTHOR OF "MICAH CLARKE," "A STUDY IN

SCARLET," ETC.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE JOURNEY TO THE PRIORY.

It was already dusk when John Girdlestone and his ward reached Waterloo Station. He gave orders to the guard that the luggage should be stamped, but took care that she should not hear the name of their destination. Hurrying her rapidly down the platform amid the confused heaps of luggage and currents of eager passengers, he pushed her into a first-class carriage, and sprang after her just as the bell rang and the wheels began to revolve.

They were alone. Kate crept up into the corner among the cushions, and wrapped her rug round her, for it was bitterly cold. The merchant pulled a note-book from his pocket, and proceeded by the light of the lamp above him to add up columns of figures. He sat very upright in his seat, and appeared to be as absorbed in his work as though he were among his papers in Fenchurch-street. He neither glanced at his companion nor made any inquiry as to her comfort.

As she sat opposite to him she could not keep her eyes from his hard angular face, every rugged feature of which was exaggerated by the flickering yellow light above him. Those deep-set eyes and sunken cheeks had been familiar to her for years. How was it that they now, for the first time, struck her as being terrible? Was it that new expression which had appeared upon them, that hard inexorable set about the mouth, which gave a more sinister character to his whole face?

As she gazed at him an ineffable loathing and dread rose in her soul, and she could have shrieked out of pure terror. She put her hand up to her throat with a gasp to keep down the sudden inclination to cry out. As she did so her guardian glanced over the top of the note-book with his piercing light grey eyes.

"Don't get hysterical!" he cried. "You have given us trouble enough without that."

"Oh, why are you so harsh?" she cried, throwing out her arms towards him in eloquent entreaty, while the tears coursed down her cheeks. "What have I done that is so dreadful? I could not love your son, and do love another. I am so grieved to have offended you. You used to be kind and like a father to me."

"And a nice return you have made me. 'Honour your father,' says the good old book. What honour did you give me save to disobey every command which I have ever given you. I have to blame myself to some extent for having allowed you to go on that most pernicious trip to Scotland, where you were thrown into the company of this young adventurer by his scheming old fool of a father."

It would have been a study for a Rembrandt to depict the craggy, strongly-lined face of the old merchant, and the beautiful pleading eyes which looked across at him, with the light thrumming strange shadows over both. As he spoke she brushed the tears from her eyes and an angry flush sprang to her cheeks.

"You may say what you like of me," she said bitterly. "I suppose that is one of your privileges as my guardian. You have no right, however, to speak evil of my friends. He who calleth his brother a fool, I think the good old book says something of that."

Girdlestone was staggered for a moment by this unexpected counter. Then he took off his broad-brimmed hat, and bowed his head with drooping lids. "Out of the mouths of babes and of sucklings!" he cried. "You are right. I spoke too warmly. It is my fault for which you betray me."

"The same seal which made you tell me so many things which I now know to be untrue about Mr. Dimsdale," said Kate, waxing more fearless as her mind turned to her wrongs.

"You are becoming impudent," he answered, and resumed his calculations in his note-book. Kate crept back into her corner again, while the train thundered and screeched and rattled through the darkness. Looking through the steaming window nothing was to be seen save the twinkle here and there of the lights of the scattered country cottages. Occasionally a red signal lamp would glint down upon her like the bloodshot eye of some demon who presided over this kingdom of iron and steam. Far behind a lurid trail of smoke marked the way that they had come. To Kate's mind it was all as weird and gloomy and cheerless even as the thoughts within her.

"Come up to the fire, my dear," said the old woman. "Take off your cloak and warm yourself." She held her own shrivelled arms towards the blaze, as though her short exposure to the night air had chilled her. Glancing at her, Kate saw that her face was sharp-featured and cunning, with a loose lower lip which exposed a line of yellow teeth, and a chin which bristled with a tuft of long grey hairs.

From without there came the crunching of gravel as the wagonette turned and rattled down the avenue. Kate listened to the sound of the wheels until they died away in the distance. They seemed somehow to be the last link which bound her to the human race. Her heart failed her completely, and she burst into tears.

"What's the matter then?" the old woman asked, looking up at her. "What are you crying about?"

"Oh, I am so miserable and so lonely," she cried. "What have I done that I should be so unhappy? Why should I be taken to this horrible, horrible place?"

"What's the matter with the place?" asked her withered companion. "I don't see noth'ng amiss with it. Here's Mr. Girdlestone a-comin'." He didn't grumble at the place, 'll warr'nt."

The merchant was not in the best of tempers, for he had had an altercation with the driver about the fare, and was cold into the bargain. "At it again," he said roughly, as he entered. "It is I who ought to weep, I think, who have been put to all this trouble and inconvenience by your disobedience and weakness of mind."

Kate did not answer, but sat upon a coarse deal chair beside the fire, and buried her face in her hands. All manner of vague fears and fancies filled her mind. What was Tom doing now? How quickly he would fly to her rescue did he but know how strangely she was situated. She determined that her very first action next morning should be to write to Mrs. Dimsdale and to tell her, not only where she was, but all that had occurred. The reflection that she could do this cheered her heart, and she managed to eat a little of the supper which the old woman had now placed upon the table. It was a rough stew of some sort, but the long journey had given an edge to their appetites, and the merchant, though usually epicurean in his tastes, ate a hearty meal.

"When supper was over the crane, who was addressed by Girdlestone as Jorrocks, led the way upstairs and showed Kate to her room. If the furniture of the dining-room had been Spartan in its simplicity, this was even more so, for there was nothing in it save a small iron bedstead, much rusted from want of use, and a high wooden box on which stood the simplest toilet requisites. In spite of the poverty of the apartment, Kate had never been more glad to enter her luxurious chamber at home. The little carpetless room was a haven of rest where she would be left, for one night at least, to her own thoughts. As she lay in bed, however, she could hear far away the subdued murmur of Girdlestone's voice and the shrill tones of the old woman. They were in deep and animated converse. Though they were too far distant for her to distinguish a word, something told her that their talk was about herself, and the same instinct assured her that it boded her little good.

cheerless and lonely by the contrast. Girdlestone looked too, but with different emotions.

"Another plague spot," he cried, jerking his head in that direction. "In town or country it is the same. These poison sellers are scattered over the whole face of the land, and every one of them is a focus of disease and misery."

"Beg your pardon, sir," the surly driver observed, swivelling round in his seat. "That's the 'Flyin' Bull, sir, where I be in service, and it ain't no poison seller, but a real right down good house."

"All liquor is poison, and every house devoted to the sale of it is a sinful house," Girdlestone said curtly.

"Don't you say that to my master," remarked the driver. "He be a big man wi' a ter'by bad temper and a hand like a leg o' mutton. Hold up, will ye!"

The last remark was addressed to the horse, which had stumbled in going down a sharp incline. They were out of the village by this time, and the road was lined on either side by high hedges, which threw a dense shadow over everything. The feeble lamps of the wagonette bored two little yellow tunnels of light on either side. The man let the reins lie loose upon the horse's back, and the animal picked out the roadway for itself. As they swung round from the narrow lane on to a broader road Kate broke out into a little cry of pleasure.

"There's the sea," she exclaimed joyfully. The moon had broken from behind the clouds, and glittered on the vast silvery expanse.

"Yes, that's the sea," the driver said, "and them lights down yonder is at Lea Claxton, where the fisher-folk live; and over there, 'pointing with his whip to a long dark shadow on the water,' is the Oilywoite."

"The what?"

"The Isle of Wight, he means," said Girdlestone.

The driver looked at him reproachfully. "Of course," said he, "if you Lunnon folks knows more about it than we who are born an' bred in the place, it's no manner o' use our tryin' to teach you." With this sarcastic comment he withdrew into himself, and refused to utter another word until the end of their journey.

It was not long before this was attained. Passing down a deeply rutted lane they came to a high stone wall which extended for a couple of hundred yards. It had a crumbling, decaying appearance, as far as could be judged in the uncertain light. This wall was broken by a single iron gate, flanked by two high pillars, each of which was surmounted by some weather-beaten heraldic device. Passing through they turned up a winding avenue, with lines of trees on either side, which shot their branches so thickly above them that they might have been driving through some sombre tunnel. This avenue terminated in an open space, in the midst of which towered a great irregular whitewashed building, which was the old Priory. All below it was swathed in darkness, but the upper windows caught the glint of the moon, and emitted a pallid and sickly glimmer. The whole effect was so weird and gloomy that Kate felt her heart sink within her. The wagonette pulled up in front of the door, and Girdlestone assisted her to alight.

There had been no lights or any symptoms of welcome, but as they pulled down the trunks the door opened and a little old woman appeared with a candle in her hand, which she carefully shaded from the wind while she peered out into the darkness.

"Is that Mr. Girdlestone?" she cried.

"Of course it is," the merchant said impatiently.

"Did I not telephone and tell you that I was coming?"

"Yes, yes," she answered, hobbling forward with the light. "And this is the young lady? Come in, my dear; come in. We have not got things very smart yet, but they will soon come coming."

She led the way through a lofty hall into a large sitting-room, which, no doubt, had been the monkish refectory in bygone days. It looked very cold and cold, although a small fire spat and sparkled in the corner of the great iron grate. There was a pan upon the fire, and the deal table in the centre of the room was laid out roughly as for a meal. The candle which the old woman had carried in was the only light, though the flickering fire cast strange fantastic shadows in the further corners and among the great oaken rafters which formed the ceiling.

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OUR OMNIBUS.
THE M.P.

The atmosphere of the House on Tuesday was distinctly electrical, and an air of pugnacity marked the features of the Opposition. They had well kept the secret of their intention to raise a privilege debate. The Parnellite members were in strong force, having previously had a severe lecture on their duty to their leader, and telegrams were raining and messengers scouring to bring up the lagging Gladstonians. There is no doubt they hoped to be able to snatch a vote, and to proclaim it with a victory at Partick, as the knell of the Government. But the anticipated double event did not "come off." The Opposition had not taken Mr. Atkins-Douglas into account. He was not to be caught napping, but took care to keep his forces in hand throughout the evening, and to have a majority of fifty or so within call at any time. And so the attack, heralded by a portentously solemn speech by Sir William Harcourt, in which no single joke obtruded, ended in a repulse all along the line, and the news of a Unionist victory at Partick sent the assailants home sad and dispirited.

Of the debate on the *Times* little need be said. The leading speakers were not seen at their best, and there was an air of unreality in the whole proceedings. Sir John Gorst vindicated his right to take rank as one of the best debaters on the Treasury bench; his style is clear, cold, and argumentative, as becomes an ex-wrangler, but he seldom fails to convince his audience, and he is rapidly gaining prestige and authority. Most of the Ministerial speakers frankly acknowledged the wrong done to Mr. Parnell, and Mr. W. H. Smith, in closing the debate, emphatically expressed his satisfaction that the Irish leader's character had been cleared. In doing so, it may be noted, he only repeated what he said on July 23rd, 1888, on the third reading of the Special Commission Bill, that no one would rejoice more than himself if the result of the inquiry should be to disprove the charges brought against him.

Mr. Gladstone has apparently benefited much by the recess, and his voice has recovered all its former power and tone. He is understood to be contemplating an Easter political tour, and it is believed that he will make the home counties the theatre of his next campaign, commencing by a visit to Redhill, where a vigorous attack on Sir Trevor Lawrence's seat is to be opened. The Gladstonian party have selected as their candidate a Mr. Barnes, who has some local influence and is an active member of the Surrey County Council. The eruption of the Home Rule leader into "solid Surrey" ought to make the local Conservatives and Unionists bestir themselves.

The Conservatives may claim to have chosen a "strong" candidate to fight their battle in West Cumberland against Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Major J. Scott Napier, their champion, is reckoned to be physically one of the most powerful men in the Army, and wonderful stories are told of his prowess in the athletic arena. He had the honour for some time of being Mr. Gladstone's landlord in London, as the ex-Premier occupied Major Napier's cosy house in James-street before migrating to the magnificence of St. James's square.

If the County Council Committee had chanced to look in at Drury Lane the other evening they would have seen hearty nonagenarian, ex-Vice-chancellor Bacon, enjoying the pantomime which Mr. Councillor Harris provides. The old judge, though now almost entirely deaf, is still hale and vigorous, and looks not unlikely to attain the century, which only wants seven years to complete. Lord Cottenham, his senior in age, failed this year to attend the opening of Parliament for the first time, but is looking forward to hearing Mr. Goschen introduce the Budget. If he does, it will be the fifty-second successive Budget to which he has listened.

Two fortunate members of Parliament are Professor Stuart and Mr. James Lowther. The former is about to marry the daughter of Mr. Colman, of Norwich, with whom he will obtain no trifling dowry. He proposes to relinquish his professorship at Cambridge, and to devote himself exclusively to the promotion of what he calls his London programme, in which, at present, he has failed to excite any general interest. Mr. James Lowther, the popular member for Thanet and the Jockey Club, will, it is rumoured, become a very rich man through the death of a wealthy relative, who has made him his heir.

OLD IZAAK.

An angling contest is arranged to take place on the 23rd inst., under the auspices of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, for the following prizes:—1st, value £2 10s.; 2nd, value £1 10s.; 3rd, value £1. Entries £d., which will be returned as consolation prizes. It is to be a roving match, one rod only, jack and eels barred. To take place on the River Stort between Harlow Lock and Burnt Mill Lock. Members affiliated to the union can send their entries to the secretary, 150, Holborn, E.C., not later than the first post on Monday, the 17th inst.

"To the tournament!" A large poster bearing the foregoing attracted my attention this week on my way from Richmond to Twickenham. I immediately recognised the same as one referring to the seventh international fly and bait-casting tournament, which was held in the grounds of Orleans House, Twickenham, on June 9th, 1888. The question occurred to me that if these pleasant reunions to lovers of the gentle art are not to be discontinued altogether, it is high time measures were at once taken by some one of the leading angling clubs to form an influential committee, with the view of holding another during the forthcoming summer. I have good reason to know that if the preliminaries are well arranged there will be no difficulty in obtaining the permission of W. Cunard, Esq., for the use of his riverside grounds, as on the last two occasions. If we are to have one this year there is no time to be lost, as it takes several months to make all necessary preparations.

Otters are again giving evidence of increased activity at Staines, Laleham, and Chertsey. Several nice jack and chub have been picked up, clearly showing marks of having been killed and partly eaten by these greedy poachers. Alfred Harris, the honorary river-keeper of the T.A.P.S., and professional fisherman of Laleham, is on the alert, and efforts to effect their capture are to be resolutely followed up. It is well known that otters destroy a great many more fish than they actually require for food, as they are so extremely fastidious that a single animal will catch and kill five or six good fish in a day, and eat nothing but the fine flakey meat which is found on the shoulders.

The clearing out of the watercourse and ponds at Sunbury has resulted in the placing in the Thames at Kingston of six dozen young perch from three to four inches in length. These are the net result of the 12,000 eels placed in the rearing stream last May. This is much to be deplored after the time and attention given by several gentlemen in the planning, construction, and rearrangement of the two ponds and connecting stream last spring; whose views were carried out in a most liberal manner by Mr. Moore, the engineer of the Thames Conservancy. It is sincerely to be hoped this partial failure will not deter Mr. Nuttall and his friends from resuming their efforts this season. Among the advantages of this watercourse may be mentioned that the supply of water from the main river is most ample and under perfect control, the bottom is naturally clean coarse gravel, most suited for the young fry, and the food (being spontaneously produced) of the utmost consequence for the sustenance and development of the fry is exceedingly abundant.

Although there are several disadvantages connected with this particular place for the propagation of the fry, the

of fish, the most notable of which is its easy approach by the general public, and openness to aquatic birds, kingfishers, &c., all of which take heavy toll. I venture not only to hope, but even to assert that, should all go fairly well another season, it will ultimately prove of the greatest advantage in promoting the endeavours now being made to restock the river. The gradual decrease in the stock of fish in some portions of the water above the weirs is attributed to many different causes, chief of these causes being the speed at which steam launches are frequently driven during the early summer months, the rush of water causing countless thousands of minute fry to be washed up high and dry on the banks to perish.

Another cause is the reconstruction of the new weirs, which are made in such a manner as to almost entirely prevent the fish from passing up to a higher reach once they have been washed away by floods. Taking these and other causes of natural decrease into consideration, together with the great increase of anglers during the last quarter of a century, it behoves all those who are at all interested in preserving the fishery for future generations to at once come forward and assist the various preservation societies, who, through many years of good and ill report, have endeavoured with the meagre funds placed at their disposal (by the angling clubs and general public) to carry out by private means what ought to be a public undertaking. Should other of the preservation societies go the way of the one lately at Marlow, the fault will lie with the anglers of London, many of who fish the river and never give one thought as to how the money is found to pay keepers, sink punts, net reservoirs, or the many other small expenses incidental to preserving the sport of angling.

With more settled weather the rivers near London have fined down, and are now in excellent order for all-round angling. The reports to hand show that numbers of anglers are taking advantage of the improved conditions of atmosphere and water. At Laleham, Alfred Harris, in two days, has taken seven jack, the largest 7lb. At Staines, J. Keene, jun., in five days, 30lb. weight of roach. At Shepperton, George Rosewell, in one day, five nice jack, at Hampton Court, Mr. Lodge has been getting some good chub at the back weir, the largest 4lb. There has been several good takes made by the bank anglers, especially at Kingston. Mr. S. Young, the well-known roach fisherman, of Sussex, caught a nice pike in the canal at Chichester, measuring 32in. in length and 18in. in girth, weighing 11lb. Roach in the Lee are feeding fairly well.

PIPER PAN.

The Crystal Palace directors and their able manager, Mr. Henshaw Russell, recognise the fact that musical performances are the chief attractions they offer to the public. In addition to the Saturday Afternoon Concerts, renowned all over the civilised world, they announce Promenade Concerts on Thursday and Saturday evenings until the end of March, and I expect that these concerts will be prolonged until the month of May.

The Promenade Concerts at the Crystal Palace offer a large variety of attractions. High-class music is prominent, but music of a lighter kind is also provided, and I find the names of many distinguished artists in the list of engagements already made.

Since the decease of the Sacred Harmonic Society we have been left without any institution established for the performance of oratorios, and I rejoice to learn that the Crystal Palace directors intend to give amateurs an opportunity of hearing Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," which will be performed in Handel Festival style on Saturday, June 21st, with a chorus of nearly 3,000 voices. Mr. Edward Lloyd will be the principal tenor, and the other leading artists will probably be Madames Albany and Patey and Mr. Santley. A special choir of 500 boys will assist in the chorales "Sleepers, awake!" and "In one true God," &c.

Madame Marie de Mensiaux, the able dramatic critic of the *Boston Evening Transcript*, informs me that "La Rose de St. Flour" is the original title of the Offenbach operetta, known in this country as "The Rose of Auvergne," an adaptation by H. B. Farnie, who told me that the original work was entitled "La Fete de St. Flour." I am much obliged to Madame de Mensiaux for her courteous communication, and I think we have now had quite enough said on the subject.

Middle Sigrid Arnaldson, the Swedish prima donna, whose operatic successes in London are pleasantly remembered, has completed her engagement at the Hague. On her "galia night," although the prices of admission were doubled, the opera house was crammed, and during the evening she was recalled twenty times. I hope we may soon hear this charming artist in London.

Mr. Sims Reeves will make his last appearance at Brighton next Monday, at Mr. Kuh's concert. I fear he has been a heavy loser through his recent illness. Those who unreasonably complain when he "disappoints the public," forget that on such occasions he disappoints himself.

Madame Adelina Patti last week made a brilliantly successful reappearance at San Francisco. The crowded audience were delighted, as they had some claim to be, considering that she received £1,000 for her performance, and the prices of admission were necessarily raised.

Let me remind my readers that the great violinist, Herr Joachim, will make his re-appearance at next Monday's Popular Concert, St. James's Hall. Considering that the prices of admission range from 1s. upwards, all classes of amateurs are enabled to enjoy the performances of this great artist.

The Carl Rosa Opera Company's opening performance at Drury Lane is now fixed for Saturday, April 5th. I look forward with pleasure to their production of "Robert le Diable," and other grand operas, which they have successfully performed during their seven weeks' season at Liverpool, but deplore the humiliating fact that their London season is not likely to extend beyond four weeks.

I have been asked by a lady correspondent for my opinion of a society which undertakes to supply its supporters with musical instruments "on easy terms." This society is not mentioned in Rudall's Musical Directory, and I should recommend my readers to beware of "bogus" musical institutions and advertising teachers.

The guarantee fund of the Philharmonic Society for their ensuing season has reached the unprecedented sum of £2,529.

M. and Madame Pachmann will next Thursday afternoon give the first of two farewell concerts at St. James's Hall. Lovers of Chopin's works should not neglect this opportunity of hearing them played by M. Pachmann. Excepting when he plays Chopin's music, I must confess that I care little for his performances.

Last week I gave an illustration of the devices employed by Fiorentino, the greatest and the last of the French blackmailing critics. Thanks to my friend Mauzel, I am enabled to give one more, which must be the last. A young baritone waited on Fiorentino, bringing letters of recommendation from persons whom Fiorentino could hardly venture to offend. The young artist told him he was about to make his Parisian debut on the following Thursday, as Enrico Ashton in "Lucia di Lammermoor," and repeatedly assured the critic that he would not only be grateful for a benevolent notice, but would give valuable proof of his gratitude as soon as he obtained the necessary means.

On the day following his débüt the artist found in the *Debats* Fiorentino's notice of the performance of "Lucia." It mentioned the artist's débüt, and concluded with the double-meaning compliment, "Ce jeune homme promet beaucoup."

Although there are several disadvantages connected with this particular place for the propagation of the

On verra." "This young man promises much. We shall see."

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

With reference to the seagull, which "P. F. E." saw lately in the Camden-road, another correspondent, "A. S." sends a very probable explanation of the place it came from. In Finsbury Park there is a lake with an island which is inhabited by seagulls, some of which, naturally, fly to some distance around. "A. S." has seen some of these birds as far as Holloway Station, so there is very little doubt that the bird which "P. F. E." saw at the Brockton, in Camden-road, was one of those from Finsbury Park.

I see that our old friend, *Punch*, has taken up my idea of the fearful results which might occur from the farmers manuring their fields with mummy cats. Instead, however, of kittens sprouting up from the fields, an appalling array of Egyptian feline ghosts is seen rising from the ground, and slowly proceeding towards the terror-stricken rustics. Let us devoutly trust that the spirits of the departed pussies of the Pharaohs may not visit the desecrators of their hallowed bodies with any such awful vengeance!

Were I down at Liverpool, I would certainly try to secure one of these same mummified cats which are now being periodically sold by auction. Perfect specimens are said to be very rare indeed, and by the exercise of a little ingenuity one might piece the several parts together so as to make a quite presentable mummy. Some of the heads are described as being in an excellent state of preservation, hair and all, and a few of the bodies are equally perfect. It seems a sad pity to convert these ancient relics of Egyptian life into manure when they would fetch a much higher price as curiosities. At the last sale, the wholesale price was £5 17s. a ton, whereas the heads when sold separately fetched from 2s. to 5s., and the bigger bones almost as high a price.

A Dutch veterinary surgeon starts an ingenious idea to account for the anomaly that in the East, where half-starved dogs prowl in multitudes, rabies is scarcely known. He says that this is a mistake, the disease is common enough, but chiefly in its "paralytic form," so that the afflicted dogs cannot attack. Another plausible reason assigned by this learned Dutchman is that the Eastern dog, unlike the Western type, is in too much fear of man ever to assail him. That is true enough as regards sane dogs in the Orient, but I should be very sorry to back "the majesty of man" against a mad one.

If Mr. Barnum could only secure the "natural curiosities" which are constantly reported in the Indian papers, his museum would be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. The latest of these wonders is a child recently born at Vellopalla, in the Madras Presidency. This engaging infant's body is covered with broad black and blue stripes, instead of hair it has long silky wool, its nails are claws, and its face bears a distinct resemblance to that of a wild cat! The worst of these phenomena is that they invariably vanish before authentic evidence of their existence can be obtained.

My old and valued correspondent, "The British Lion," writes concerning sharks. He says that sharks are commonly sold in the markets at Rangoon and Moulmein. The flesh of the shark is quite edible, and my correspondent says that he would not object to a cut from the tail of the lady shark at any meal. The male fish is rather strong for eating. "The British Lion" has a fine specimen of the tiger shark, which would be better called leopard, for it is spotted and not striped. My correspondent gives the palm both for beauty and ferocity to the blue shark of the Southern oceans. It is longer than the brown shark of the North Atlantic, has a sharper head, and swims faster.

Mr. Mankelow corroborates the recent letters which have appeared as to rats carefully skinning their dead brethren. Such a case occurred under my own observation in 1885. Only the skin and bones were left, the former being uninjured. "E. S." also mentions a similar occurrence, only the victim of the operation was a mouse, and two others were skinned in a similar manner within ten days after it.

Last Tuesday the House of Commons was interrupted in a very unusual manner. A poor little mouse, not having read its daily paper and not knowing that Parliament had recommenced, appeared near the bar of the House and ran first to the benches of the Opposition, from which it was driven, and then to those of the Treasury, where it met with a similar reception, until at last it was obliged to take refuge again in the quarter from which it had emerged. This incident, it is stated, caused great hilarity, and the speech which was being made by Sir J. Gorst was interrupted. I am afraid the "wee timorous beastie," as Burns called the field mouse, did not understand the sensation it was causing, and was much disappointed at finding the places which it knew so well empty now filled with human giants who refused to give it admittance.

Knocking about among workmen of different sorts in all parts of town, I find a growing sense of dissatisfaction and resentment at the tyranny of trade unions and their leaders. A strong feeling exists that the members of these organisations are being made cat's-paws to pick nice chestnuts out of the fire for high and mighty monkeys in broadcloth who never do a stroke of work. "They didn't lose a farthing," said an indignant son of toil to me, "when the gas workers were chucked out of employment through following their advice." That is true, of course, but it does not minimise the folly of the gas workers in quarrelling with their bread and butter before they could make sure of getting better fare.

French "martyrs" compare favourably with the Irish variety in putting the best face on matters after they get into quod. Thus, the young Duc d'Orleans makes no pretence of suffering, but displays high spirits and a fine appetite for food. Nor would he howl, I fancy, even if his breeches were taken away.

It would be a good thing were some M.P. to devote the same close attention to State expenditure on London parks as Mr. Henniker-Heaton does to the Post Office. I feel assured that a large sum might be saved annually were some check placed on the wastefulness of those who have the management of these open spaces. Rarely do I take a stroll through any one of them without coming upon abundant evidence of money absolutely thrown away on "improvements" of no value whatever. No one would grudge any outlay required to make the parks enjoyable by the people, but my contention is that their gratification might be secured at much less cost.

Even a crossing-sweeper has his feelings, it appears. Worm-like as he seems when soliciting alms, he will turn if you tread upon him too heavily. I have just heard of one who carried out an elaborate and troublesome plan of revenge for an injury to his feelings. For some weeks he swept a crossing where his earnings were, he considered, insufficient. He attributed this to the parsimony of the householders living close by; perhaps they would have excused themselves on the ground that they did not care to go out with their clubs, lest the pace should either be too fast or be so modified to suit their tastes as to disgust the younger members.

The two classes mix well enough in the ordinary club life, the old boys being, as a rule, quite as forward as the young in the various forms of nocturnal enjoyment. But on the road it is necessarily different, except in the case of such human miracles as Colonel Knox-Holmes.

Feminine participation in masculine sports has become so common that it would not surprise me at all to see lovely woman go in for cycle racing during the coming season. I do not mean merely professional riders, such as come over here last year from the States, but bona fide amateurs, like the athletic dames who add themselves to cricket and lawn tennis. One advantage might result, at all events; no consideration on earth would influence lovely woman to remain behind in a race when she had it in her to go to the front.

So there would not be any "loafing" in the feminine competitions, and perhaps that might cause masculine cyclists to abandon the practice, for very shame's sake.

The C.T.C. might advantageously suggest to all innkeepers in its list that eggs and bacon or ham do not make a suitable breakfast for cyclists on tour.

The exercise is, in itself, quite thrifty, producing enough, without drying up the tonics and palate beforehand. Out of twelve hostlers at which I stopped while on tour last season, tea was purveyed at a shilling for breakfast, in spite of my earnest entreaties to the contrary.

They said that there was nothing else in the larder except cold mutton, and no one but a navy or

a "practical cyclist" could breakfast comfortably on that insipid fare.

The Catford C.C. holds its last smoking concert on Tuesday, the 18th, at the Bridge House Hotel, when none but professionals will vocalise or instrumentalise. Members will be admitted free; non-members by investing a shilling in a ticket, obtainable from Mr. C. P. Sinden, Catford Hill. This club has made a name for itself as a purveyor of really fine concerts.

"SAFETIES."—Clearance Bazaar, 600 Soiled Machines from

42 lbs. Special prices to Agents. "Cycloderm" Safeties, Half Round, Soiled, only 2s 10d. Send for 1890 New and Second-hand Lists. Easy Payments, &c. "Cyclone" Safeties, Special Low Price. "Cyclone" Safety Bicycles, &c. Riding School open at 2 p.m.—"Cyclone" & "Bicycle"—London.

impudent proposal is put so bluntly, there is nothing out of the common in the application. It is quite usual for journalists of a certain class—not a high one, truly—to thus endeavour to support their professional brethren. They generally begin by picking holes in the workmanship of whoever they wish to displace, and having, as they suppose, set the editorial mind against him by these dirty manoeuvres, they recommend themselves for the berth. The Society of Journalists should certainly bring pressure to bear, if it can, on these greedy "blacklegs."

The Public Prosecutor, or whoever has the care of public morals, should keep an eye on the advertisement and correspondence columns of certain weekly papers which pretend to be respectable. Not a week passes without several almost open invitations to immoral unions appearing among their advertisements, while the correspondence is soon thick with medical advice of the most disgusting indecent character. Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant were prosecuted for a single offence against the laws of morality, but these filthy journals are allowed to go on week after week with their deluge of sewage.

MR. WHEELER.

Three cheers for the Northumberland County Council! It has instructed its surveyor to erect mile-stones and guide-posts "wherever they are wanted," and as Northumberland is very badly off

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Mooshane*.)
A Bridge that burglars don't like to "cross."—The Bow-street magistrate.

Mr. Morley, addressing the Bristolians, told them Morley knows about it.

A charming idea for improving the complexion is to apply a couple of real cutlets to the cheeks on retiring to rest. Of course, it is the duty of every young lady to look after her appearance, and to neglect such a specific as this would be a mis-steak.

A mass-alliance.—The Army and Navy Club at dinner.

Master (discouraging ode to Mary Queen of Scots): 'I knew that bounding grace of step— that symmetry of mould. What is symmetry of mould, Smith?'—Smith: A place where they bury their dead, sir.

After an experience of the influenza, we believe there is nothing like the old-fashioned remedy—to put your feet in some gruel, tie a pail of water round your head, and when you are comfortably tucked in a piece of warm flannel and a glass of rum and water, to swallow the bed as hot as you can bear it.

The McBain: Why Sandy, man, ye're lame.— Sandy McPherson: Eh, man, dinna ye ken? I came home sober yester' nicht, and the dug misook me for a stranger.

It is said that a great number of mummified cats from the catacombs of Egypt are to be utilised as manure. The pussies are to be reduced to powder, and applied in that form to the land.

We should rather have imagined that the dressing would have been exhibited as a cataplasm; but however this may be, it is clear that to be efficacious the application must be persevered with.

The idea, which is certainly a mewling, and not so unfeeling as it sounds, is supposed to have originated with a native of Catalonia.

(From *Funch*.)

MISUNDERSTOOD!—(Annals of a quiet neighbourhood)—Daughter of the House (anxious to introduce partners to each other): Is your card quite full, Mr. M'Sawney?—Mr. M'Sawney: Oh dear, no! Which dance shall I give you?

A Diamond.—"It says 'ere, as your old boss, Collier M'Whinkey, has been took ill." "Ah, so I'd er!" "Russian epidemic?" No, Scotch.

ULTICO RATIO.—Small Rustic: You can't go that way.—Stalwart Young Lady (out sketching): Why not?—Small Rustic: 'Cause there's—there's hardies.—Stalwart Young Lady: But I can get over hardies.—Small Rustic: And then there's the ball!

AV BROM!—(Mr. Punch and Mr. J. L. Toole discovered smoking a last cigar.)—Mr. P.: And so, my dear Johnnie, you are leaving us at once?—Mr. J. L. T.: Yes, sir, but I hope soon to be back again. I am looking forward to the voyage as an excellent digestive to all the luncheons, dinners, and suppers I have been taking for the last five or six weeks.—Mr. P.: I have no doubt they have been a little trying—oh, Johnnie!—Mr. J. L. T.: And yet, as I have observed in "The Upper Crest," "they were very welcome." But, sir, how did I get through my oratory? Did you notice my speeches at the *Guerrilla* and the *Savage*? Which did you prefer?—Mr. P.: I heard the first, and read a report of the second, and can conscientiously declare they were equally good.—Mr. J. L. T.: I am glad to hear you say so, sir. I confess I didn't think there was much to choose between them. And now (with deep emotion), will you excuse my glove?—Mr. P.: No; I won't say good-bye; for wherever you may roam, my dear Johnnie, you will have this consolation—you will find me there before you.

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Mrs. Podmore has been sniffing the briny at Brighton. She returned to the bosom of her family after a comfortable journey in a first-class coach.

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in a resolution. When the London league for stopping the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday held a meeting the other day, they resolved "emphatically" that London was as heartily in favour of such a measure as the country. The league is nearer the truth than it imagines. The "measure" that London and the country are in favour of is the pint measure.

APPROPRIATE COSTUME FOR "HIGHFLYERS" AT FASHION.—A contemporary which caters for the ladies remarks that birds have recently "come in" as trimmings for evening raiment. For example, a flight of jet swallows are seen darting across the skirt of an evening dress, and perhaps the bodice will also be ornamented with a swallow. Well, all we've got to say is that the wearer of a costume which is a mass of swallows probably looks (s)martin it!

SCISSORS!—Barber: Rather short, sir?—Customer: Yes; now you mention it, I am rather short—pay you next time.

A BLACK BUSINESS.—The latest strike is that of the chimney sweeps in Vienna. This will not last long. Foreign Governments and foreign police have an expeditious method of dealing with such matters. In this case the strikers will probably benefit by this treatment—in appearance, at all events. If they are obstreperous, an autocratic Government will probably make a "clean sweep" of the lot!

AT CROSS PURPOSES.—The projectors of the Channel Bridge.

Russia is much alarmed about Chinese aggressiveness. Seeing the somewhat encroaching disposition of the former, it is hardly surprising to find China following in her steps.

(From *Ally Sloper*.)

"The person I most sympathised with in the Barnum Show," said the Great and Only Eminent, "was that poor creature without any arms." Then McGoosney grew all of a sudden most dreadful thoughtfully like. "Why, Ally, any more than the bloke without any legs?" The teardrop stood in the Old Man's eye as he mildly murmured, "To think of being so dreadful afflicted that you could never have the pleasure of raising a toothful of 'unsweetened' to your bloomin' lips!" And half a ton weight of sympathetic tears swept the sandust of the floor of the Blue Pig into the gutter.

CASE OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY.—WIFE v HUSBAND.—Magistrate (to witness): Did you see the commencement of all this trouble?—Witness: Yes, yer honour, I was best man.

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SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From the *World*.)
The Queen was greatly interested by the wreck of the Ilex near the Needles. On Saturday week the officers and men of the Coastguard and of the Royal Artillery who took part in saving the lives of the crew of that ship were received by her Majesty at Osborne, and the Queen contributed £10 towards the fund which was raised at Cowes to provide the ruined sailors with clothing. The narrative of the wreck so much interested Princess Beatrice that she visited Scratchell Bay, near the Needles, the scene of the disaster, last Monday, travelling each way by special train between Whippingham and Freshwater. Sir John Cowell was in attendance on the princess.

The Monegasque excitement is in full swing at the chapel of the Foundling Hospital, which is crowded each Sunday morning by the disciples of the popular preacher, who, all too soon for their liking, is about to relinquish his ministry. Like other celebrities of light and leading, the reverend professor is beset by anonymous letters, on which he delights to preface his discourse proper by commenting on the homeliest of language. Touching on some of these, bearing special reference to the reason for his leaving a flock that love him so well, he denied on Sunday morning the soft impeachment of inhibition.

"I am," said he, "still, as ever, a son of the Church; a troublesome son, perhaps, but always a son." Nor, he continued, "have I, as some suggest, in my recent Spanish tour provided myself with a wife too dusky to be acceptable in London society."

There is to be a very elaborate and stately ceremonial at Potsdam on June 15th, which will be the second anniversary of the death of the Emperor Frederick, on that day the monument by Professor Begas, which is to be placed over his grave in the Friedenskirche at Sans-Souci, to be unveiled. The recumbent effigy of the Emperor is wrapped in a mantle, his hands being crossed over a laurel wreath, and his sword, which lies across the figure, is surmounted with a palm branch. On the side is a relief representing Charon bearing the Emperor across the Styx, on the back of which stream the Emperor William and Queen Louise are to be seen waiting to welcome him. There is also a shield with the figure of justice holding the sacred scales, and on the other side an allegorical figure of charity. There are also two reliefs, the one presenting the Emperor as a youth, receiving a sword from Pallas; and on the other he is approaching a figure symbolising art and science. The tablet at the head, on which there is to be an inscription, is enclosed by two gigantic eagles. The monument is very effective, but both Lutherans and Roman Catholics are scandalised that Begas should not have gone to the Bible for his figures.

(From *Truth*.)

The Queen returns to Windsor early next week (probably on Tuesday) from Osborne, and will reside there until March 25th, when she is to proceed to Aix-les-Bains, where she will arrive, according to present arrangements, on Thursday, March 27th, for a stay of three weeks. The marriage of another daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales has been arranged, but the public announcement will not be made before April.

I was talking a few days ago to a friend of mine who knows all about Hampton Court, and he told me that the destruction of the palace and its contents by fire is only a question of time, for it is quite certain to be burnt down by the occupants of the apartments in the roof, and it is truly marvellous that the inevitable catastrophe has not happened long ago. Hampton Court Palace should be cleared of its inhabitants, and turned into a museum, for which it is admirably adapted.

Prince Albert of Monaco, who gets £30,000 a year from the proprietors of the Casino, intends to devote this money to making improvements in his State and to completing the cathedral at Monaco. Prince Albert can well afford to dispense with this grant, for he inherited an immense fortune from his miserly father, and his wife is enormously rich.

I am glad to hear that Lord Hartington's indisposition is likely only to be temporary, and that his strong constitution will very soon enable him to throw off any ill-effects from his late illness. Mr. Chamberlain's health gives a good deal of anxiety to his friends. He was thoroughly out of sorts when he went to Egypt, but he is considerably better at present. Lord Salisbury will not be able for long to resist the strain of office, and it will not surprise me if he has shortly to withdraw from the arduous position that he occupies.

(SINGULAR CHARGE AGAINST A MUSIC TEACHER.)

At the Dalston Police Court, Eliza Annie Fitzhugh, 31, described as a teacher of music, of Wolverton, Norfolk, was charged with obtaining, by false pretences, a coffin, &c., from John Gray.

—From the information of Mr. John Gray, an undertaker, of Seven Sisters-road, which was read over to him, it appeared that the prisoner, who said she was Miss Fitzhugh, on the 11th of September last, ordered from him a funeral, which was to cost £76. She said her father was lying dead; that she was engaged in the domestic department of Marlborough House, being paid the first week in every month, and would pay the money in October and November. Mr. Gray added that he carried out the funeral; that

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TWO CONSTABLES.

Extraordinary Precautions.

William Whittam, 32, described as a co-fence-keeper, of York-street, Lambeth, was again brought up at Southwark Police Court last week, charged with having house-breaking implements in his possession by night, and with attempting to murder Police-constable Warren, 112 L, and Police-constable Winstone, 257 L, by firing at them with a revolver. It will be remembered that the prisoner, who is a tall, well-built man, made a daring attempt to escape whilst being removed to Holloway Gaol in the prison van, by sawing through one of the sides, but was frustrated by the arrival of the van at its destination from completing more than half the aperture through which he hoped to escape. Since then he has made several attempts to escape from the prison. The prisoner was now placed in the dock handcuffed to two stalwart policemen. Inspector Harvey, who watched the case on behalf of the commissioners, made arrangements that the prisoner should be carefully watched, and that the whole of the entrances and exits should be guarded by a constable and a detective. From certain information the police had reason to believe that an attempt would be made to rescue Whittam whilst he was in the dock, and therefore the commissioners directed Inspector Harvey to take special precautions in the case. The prisoner was brought to the court in a van handcuffed to an officer, but he appeared to be in no way surprised. On entering the court he looked round quickly, and discovering his wife at the back of the court he smiled. Mr. Sims, Treasury solicitor, prosecuted; and Mr. Levett, solicitor, defended.—Mr. Sims said that since the last hearing a letter had come into the possession, written by the prisoner, of the prison authorities, which they deemed it advisable to suppress. The letter would be produced by a warden, who saw the prisoner write it. Mr. Sims also said that in consequence of the contents of that letter the precautions were taken.—Mr. Levett said that he intended to withdraw from the case, seeing that in the letter spoken of by Mr. Sims, the prisoner said he should hand it to his solicitor to pass out, and at the same time he wished to state that he would never have been a party to such a transaction. Police-constable Winstone, 257 L, said on the 28th ult. he was on duty in York-road, Lambeth, when he saw the prisoner in company with a man walking up and down outside a public-house. Police-constable 112 L spoke to him, and they both followed the prisoner, who was then standing on the pavement by himself. The other man was then standing at the corner of Griffin-street, and witness and Warren crossed the road, and searched him, and, finding nothing on him, they told him to get away. After this the prisoner was walking away, and witness and Warren followed him.

Acting Suspiciously:

When they arrived outside the Duke of York public-house they saw prisoner light his pipe, and they both crossed the road and stopped him. Warren said, "What are you loitering about here?" to which the prisoner replied, "Nothing; what do you want to know for?" Warren said, "I have been watching you for some time, and I think you have been acting very suspiciously, and I mean to see what you have about you. Open your coat." The prisoner's overcoat was buttoned, and he undid the buttons with his left hand. The accused then took his pipe out of his mouth and placed it in his breast pocket. As the prisoner drew his left hand from his pocket, he stepped back and said, "Stand back." Witness saw him pointing something at Warren's belt, and then he heard a revolver go off. Warren was then standing about two feet from the prisoner, and he shouted, "Look out." The prisoner then turned to the left, and holding the revolver in the same position he pointed it at witness and fired. Witness was then quite close to the prisoner. Neither of them was hit. Witness then seized hold of the prisoner, and caught hold of his left arm, and Warren caught hold of his right arm. A short struggle took place, and all three of them fell in the road together, and for three minutes they struggled on the ground. The accused tried very hard to get the revolver in a position to fire again, but witness grasped his hand and prevented him. They were not able to blow their whistles, but they shouted, and, when Police-constable 119 L came up he took the revolver from the prisoner. When Inspector Martin came up the prisoner said, "My pocket's on fire," and his overcoat was taken off, and it was found that the lighted pipe which the accused had put in it had set fire to his clothes. The prisoner then went quietly to the station. When the charge was read over to him the prisoner said, "Can I have bail?" (Laughter.)—Police-constable White, 119 L, said he noticed the prisoner loitering about, and soon after he heard the report of a revolver, and some one shouted. Witness ran into Griffin-street and saw the two constables and the prisoner struggling on the ground. Warren said, "Look out; he's got a revolver." The witness at once turned his lamp on to the prisoner, and found that he had a revolver in his left hand. Witness then struck him with his truncheon across the legs, and wrenched the revolver out of his hand.—Mr. Sims said he should go no further with the evidence that day, seeing that another charge would be brought against the accused.—The prisoner was granted permission to see his wife in the presence of the police.—Mr. Slade remanded prisoner for a week.

The Prisoner's Letter.

The following is a copy of the letter which the man Whittam addressed to his wife, and entrusted to a warden at Holloway Gaol to be given to his solicitor, who was to send it by post to his wife. The warden handed the letter to the governor, who at once communicated with the Treasury, which caused the police to take the extraordinary precautions they did when the prisoner was brought up.

Dear Polly.—I write these few lines trusting they will reach you safe. I am going to put them in a note for the solicitor, only I don't know his name and address. I expect you will be disappointed to-day as they will not let you see me. I will explain all about it now. I was going to tell you on Saturday, but that fellow (Butcher, the gaoler) would not go away. I told you I had been working at my trade all day just two little bits of brick away. Well, I was so pleased that I was jumping about in the afternoon and broke one of the little windows. Three or four came up and asked about it and went away again, and it got to tea time. I thought I should not have anybody in, so I commenced and took out some of the chewed bread and stuff that I had stopped the cracks up with, thinking I would come out about eight o'clock, when all at once the warden came in and said he very near forgot it. I told him I had been working all day just two little bits of brick away. Well, he said it was the governor's order that no prisoner was to stop in a room with a broken window in, so I had to go out, and I lay awake all night, and then I thought about the police van; that van was a bit too coarse. Directly the van started I commenced work, only I was put into the first one near the door, just close to the policeman, and there on a stool run through the middle about an inch thick, and I managed to get two thin ones to sit on. Well, I was very near down one side. When the van pulled up at Holloway I thought it was something they were doing there, as it was the last night, but he said it was the governor's order that no prisoner was to stop in a room with a broken window in, so I had to go out, and I lay awake all night, and then I thought about the police van; that van was a bit too coarse. 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The People.

Offices: MILFORD-LANE, STRAND, W.C.

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THE PEOPLE."—*Vice of Wakefield, chap. 19.*

THE PROSPECTS OF THE SESSION.

Parliament has resumed its work, and has resumed it, we may fairly say, under excellent auspices. Not only have the Opposition been signally discomfited in their preposterous attempt to raise the question of privilege of Parliament over the *Pigot* affair, but Ministers have provided an excellent and substantial bill of fare for the digestion of our legislators during the next six months. Mr. GLADSTONE has, of course, thought it necessary to grumble with the programme of the Government on the ground that it is too meagre, just as on a similar previous occasion he complained that it was too full. Our readers, and the nation at large can, fortunately, judge for themselves. At the present time we do not propose to touch upon the Irish part of the Ministerial programme or upon the *Tithes* Bill. It will be time enough to discuss the Irish Land and Local Government and the *Tithes* Bills when the House and the public are in possession of their details. On the present occasion, we wish to call attention to the various important measures, of a social rather than a political nature, which the Government have promised to introduce in the interests of the well-being of the people. Social questions are, at the present time, attracting the close attention which they deserve at the hands of politicians of all shades of opinion. And when the wind of public feeling blows in that direction it is natural that a Conservative Government should be the first to take advantage of it. For has not the Conservative party proved itself by its conduct in the past to have been the consistent friend of the working classes in these matters? Even candid Radicals admit the solid nature of the work which the Conservatives have done for the working man—work which puts to shame the negligences of the side which is more apt to cling to the working man for his vote than to consult his interests by needful legislative reforms.

First and chief among the measures foreshadowed in the Queen's speech—at all events, from the point of view of useful social reform—is that one which will deal with the vitally important question of the housing of the poor. Our readers will not need to be reminded that this is a subject which the *People* has never wearied of recommending to the consideration of Ministers. We rejoice, therefore, to know that the problem will be definitely approached, not by the faddists of the Opposition, but by the common sense and in the statesmanlike spirit which distinguish the Government in other and kindred matters. This particular subject, the housing of the working classes, is, moreover, one concerning which the Conservative party has a traditional right to take the lead in legislation. Is it not to the Conservative party that the country is indebted for the *Cross* Acts and the subsequent improvements upon those salutary measures of reform? Much has already been done in that direction by the Conservative party, but more remains to do; and the Government are to be congratulated upon having announced their intention to do it. Two other measures are also set down on the programme, one of which, at least, is sorely needed. That one is a bill to amend the law with respect to savings banks and friendly societies. The confidence of the public in these institutions is, as we are constantly being reminded by serious scandals, too frequently misplaced. Stringent regulations are, therefore, imperatively necessary to safeguard the interests of depositors. The other measure is the consolidation of the law of employers' liability. It is satisfactory, also, to learn that the improvement of the health of London will be the subject of a bill. But, after the question of the housing of the poor the most important social measure will be the one dealing with allotments. It is perfectly natural and perfectly right that the people should desire to have a personal and practical hold upon the land. Now, the existing Allotments Act (another boon granted to the country by the Conservatives), although conceived in the right spirit and to a certain extent a useful measure, is, undoubtedly, susceptible of very considerable improvement. Everybody is agreed upon that point. Therefore it is well that the Government in this case, as in that of the dwellings of the working classes, should set to work to perfect the legislative edifice which has been already partially raised. We may conclude our sketch of the social programme by noting the fact that the improvement of the barrack accommodation of the Army is included in the list of measures.

Upon one matter of popular interest Ministers are, however, silent. That is the question of free, or (as Lord SALISBURY better termed it) assisted education. The subject is one of very considerable difficulty. Even Mr. GLADSTONE, in his speech on Wednesday in the House, alluded to it in terms so vague that it is impossible to make out whether he is or is not in favour of the remission of fees. To borrow a phrase of his, the subject is not "ripe" yet; and with so many pressing problems demanding treatment Ministers have, undoubtedly, done well to make no promises whatever. If they succeed in performing those which they have made, they will have no

reason to be ashamed of either the quantity or the quality of the work they will have accomplished during the present session.

Unionists have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the Partick election. Nobody ever supposed that a totally unknown candidate like Mr. Parker Smith would obtain a majority equal to that of the late Mr. Craig Sellar. Mr. Craig Sellar's personality was the cause of that, and no candidate the Unionists could possibly have put up would have had a chance of maintaining a majority of 800. Both sides largely increased their poll, and, after a contest in which the Gladstonites had the advantage of superior organisation, their locally popular candidate, Sir Charles Tennant, was beaten by 4,198 votes as against 3,929. We could not reasonably expect a better result. From Mid-Glamorganshire also there is satisfactory news. The Separatists are not to have a walk over for that constituency. Mr. Reginald Mortimer, the Conservative candidate, being a barrister practising on the South Wales Circuit, may be presumed to know something of the ground. We can only congratulate him on his courage, and hope that no effort will be spared to secure the reward it deserves.

Perjury is such a terribly serious offence, not only from the point of view of abstract morality, but also by reason of the miscarriages of justice it is apt to cause, that it ought to be punished with unflinching severity. Unfortunately, however, there is a great deal too much of it going on daily, and when detected the man who has sworn to a lie is not always punished with the severity he deserves. We, therefore, hail with satisfaction the sentence of five years' penal servitude passed by the Recorder upon the perjured Feeley. On the false witness borne by this scoundrel two innocent men were convicted last summer and were sentenced to five years and eighteen months respectively. It is eminently refreshing to think that Feeley is now suffering the punishment which his dastardly lies brought down upon others; but that satisfaction is tempered by the fear that there may be innocent men, convicted on evidence as worthless as Feeley's, pining in prison at this moment. Justice can never guarantee herself absolutely against error; but for that very reason she should show no mercy to those who attempt to mislead her.

CAUTION TO HOUSEHOLDERS.

William Bustin, 19, a labourer, of Margaret-street, Hackney, and Henry Halley, 16, boot-maker, of Havelock-road, Hackney, were charged at the Dalston Police Court on Thursday with being concerned together in stealing a number of coats and other articles from the halls of private houses in Hackney.—Lizzie Pestall, servant to Mr. W. P. Widdup, the station-master at the Cambridge Heath Railway Station, said that last Tuesday week the prisoner Bustin called at her master's house in Richmond-road, Dalston, and asked her to give a note to her mistress. The mistress was not in, so prisoner said he would call the next morning. Next evening he called and handed in a note, and said he had called for some parcels. She took the note to her mistress, and asked for an explanation. Two minutes afterwards she returned and found that the prisoner had gone away with her master's uniform coat, value £1.—Detective Knott, J Division, said that Bustin was arrested with Halley on Wednesday night on a charge of loitering. The missing coat was found at Bustin's address in Margaret-street. The gold braid armlets had been removed. Bustin said he bought the coat in Petticoat-lane.—Harriet Davies, servant to Dr. Bate, of King Edward-road, Hackney, said that at half-past six on Tuesday last the prisoner Bustin rang the bell and asked witness to give her mistress a note addressed to a Mrs. Roberts, asking for a parcel "what was left to be called for." She left the man in the hall, and when she returned shortly after the prisoner had left with the doctor's overcoat. It contained a pair of gold spectacles, a gold pen, and a stethoscope, value in all £7.—Two other charges were gone into, and Detective Knight said that there were a large number of other charges, including several against Halley, whom witness had identified. At Halley's house a bundle of twenty-seven pawnbrokers' duplicates were found. The prisoners were arrested upon information given to the police by Mr. Thomas Dipple, of Kenninghall-road, Hackney, at whose house Halley called with a note on Wednesday, but here the housemaid prudently closed the door, while taking the note to her mistress. The notes in all the cases were in the same handwriting.—The prisoners were remanded.

SINGULAR ACTION FOR LIBEL.

In the Queen's Bench Division the case of Skene v. O'Farrell came on for hearing. The plaintiff, the Rev. Samuel Silian Skene, vicar of Myton, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, sued Dr. Charles O'Farrell, of Great Yarmouth, to recover damages for libel. The defendant pleaded privilege. Mr. J. G. Witt and Mr. J. Rawlinson appeared for the plaintiff; while Dr. Blake Odgers and Mr. F. W. Heather represented the defendant.—The words complained of were contained in a letter written to a Mrs. Wright, who was the aunt of defendant's wife, and who, after the death of her husband in 1887, was with the defendant for some time. In March, 1889, Mrs. Wright, however, was staying with plaintiff and his family, and ultimately she intended to remain, and asked him to forward certain furniture, plate, and jewellery. In the course of the correspondence defendant wrote stating that he could not consider the people she was staying with were her friends, and suggesting that she could reside elsewhere. At the same time he added that, from a sense of duty, he must refer to a painful subject, and went on to say that she must be aware, or ought to be aware, that for some time previous to her marriage her name was coupled in a very unpleasant way with that of Mr. Skene. "God forbid," the defendant continued, "that I should think for one moment that there were any grounds for it, but you know what huge edifices scandal-mongers build on the slightest foundation," and warned her about placing herself in a false position.—The plaintiff and Mrs. Wright both gave evidence of the above facts, and denied that there was any foundation for the statements made by the defendant.—The defendant's case was that he had no malice against the plaintiff, whom he had never seen before he saw him in court. In his letter he referred to certain statements which he admitted to be little-tattle, made to him by two servants, but he did not believe in the accuracy of them. In cross-examination, he admitted that after the plate had been forwarded to Mrs. Wright, he wrote to an excise-man a postcard asking whether, if the plaintiff had in his house for use a crested silver plate without a license, he was subject to a penalty, and stating that he was writing to Somerset House upon the subject. He further said he thought Mrs. Wright had treated him unfairly about the furniture, which she had previously given to his wife.—After some further evidence, Dr. Blake Odgers said he recognised that there must be a verdict against the defendant, and withdrew the plea of privilege, addressing the jury in mitigation of damages.—The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £50 damages, expressing an opinion that defendant should communicate the fact to him. He came to the conclusion that Mrs. Headland had been guilty of misconduct with Khambata. There was no corroborative evidence of cruelty against the husband. He thought the husband's charges against

his wife had been established, and that the charges made by Mrs. Headland had not been proved against her husband. He therefore granted him a decree nisi, with costs, and gave him the custody of the child of the marriage.

THE WEEK'S DIVORCE CASES.

"A LADY LOVED HIM VERY MUCH."

Before Sir James Hannan, the case of Upward v. Upward came on for hearing. This was a petition presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the cruelty and misconduct of her husband. Mr. Upward was present, but did not defend.—Mr. Inderwick, with whom was Mr. Norton Smith, said the parties in the case were married in 1883, and they lived together until 1886. The respondent was an electrical engineer, and he was in the habit of visiting a Mrs. Piersall until the petitioner found some letters. The petitioner remonstrated, but the respondent made certain admissions and asked the petitioner to allow him to visit the lady. This she refused, and matters went on until the petitioner saw Mr. Piersall. In 1886, Mrs. Upward presented a petition for judicial separation from her husband, but, owing to her not being able to discover his address, it was not proceeded with. The petitioner after that rejoined the respondent, he having promised to give up Mrs. Piersall's society. After that she found that the respondent was still visiting Mrs. Piersall, and on again remonstrating with him, he told her he could not give up Mrs. Piersall, and under these circumstances Mrs. Upward filed a supplemental petition, alleging that the respondent had been guilty of cruelty and misconduct.—Mrs. Emily Upward said she was married to the respondent on the 17th of April, 1883, and they afterwards lived in Edward-square, Kensington. There was one child of the marriage. They removed from Edward-square, and went to live at West Kensington. She first had cause to complain of the conduct of the petitioner in 1886. He was then constantly from home, and he told her he had met with a lady who loved him very much. After that she discovered that the respondent was in correspondence with the lady in 1887, as in that year she obtained possession of a letter written in a lady's hand, and addressed to the respondent, signed "B. F.," which were the initials of Mrs. Piersall. The letter asked the respondent to meet her that night. After that another letter arrived. She took a copy of it, and left the original on the table. The copy now handed to her was the one she made. In July, 1888, the respondent told her he could not live with her any longer, and they had a dreadful quarrel. After that she saw Mr. Piersall, who she believed was an architect. She had found a tobacco pouch in the respondent's pocket which had been given him by Mrs. Piersall. On the 4th of June last year the respondent wished to leave her in the middle of the night, and told her he would not remain with her for a hundred millions of pounds. On the occasion of the quarrel she had referred to the respondent and threatened to kill her.—Mrs. Bristol, who was formerly in the service of Mr. and Mrs. Piersall, at Teddington, proved the visits of the respondent to Mrs. Piersall during the absence of her husband. She had known the respondent to be in Mrs. Piersall's bed-room, and she had seen him kiss Mrs. Piersall.—Mrs. Lewis and her daughter proved the acts of cruelty set out in the petition.—On his lordship asking the respondent whether he had anything to say, he denied the cruelty, but said the evidence of his misconduct was too strong for him to rebut.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs, and the petitioner the custody of the child of the marriage.

CRUELTY AFTER MARRIAGE.

The case of Giles v. Giles was one in which a petition was presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the cruelty and misconduct of her husband. Mr. Deane appeared for the petitioner. There was no defence.—Mrs. Emma Giles said she was married to the respondent, William Giles, at Malta, in 1883. There had been an engagement before that for some time, but it had been broken off. After the marriage they came to this country, and a residence was taken at Bexley. In August, 1888, the respondent behaved cruelly to her, and he seized her by the throat. Friends of hers had seen the marks of the respondent's ill-treatment on her. On one occasion he tried by force to take her rings off her finger, and then he hurt her very much. She subsequently found out that the respondent was living with another woman in Weymouth-street, Portland-place, and she then instituted the present suit. She had identified the respondent in the presence of witnesses.—Ellen Parker, a friend of the petitioner, said she knew Mr. Giles. She was on a visit to Bexley in 1888, and saw the acts of cruelty Mrs. Giles had detailed in evidence.—Kate Cox said she knew Mr. Giles, the respondent. She had seen him in the precincts of the court that day. She had lived with him in Weymouth-street for about two months as his wife. They passed as Mr. and Mrs. Graham. She recollects the respondent being served with the citation and petition.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs.

IN LOVE WITH THE COACHMAN.

In the case of Borchardt v. Borchardt and Akehurst was one in which the petition was presented by the husband, a gentleman engaged in the wine trade in the City, praying for the dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's misconduct with the co-respondent. Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Searle for the co-respondent.—Mr. Henry William Borchardt said he was married to the respondent on the 21st of September, 1888, and after that he and his wife resided at Chelsea Gardens. He first met her at a place of amusement. In 1889, on the 6th of August, she went to Hastings for the benefit of her health. She returned to town on the 22nd, and on the following Tuesday she told him she had misconducted herself. She at first refused to tell him the name of the person, but she afterwards said it was with a person she had known before marriage. He afterwards found out that the co-respondent Akehurst had been to Warrior-square, and that he stayed there with her and gave her money to pay the bills of the lodgings-house keeper. He after that left home, and had never since cohabited with the respondent. It was not true that he (petitioner) had misconducted himself, or that he wilfully neglected the respondent. He knew the respondent by the name of Saunders.—No question was asked on the part of the respondent.—Mr. Searle called Mr. Akehurst, the co-respondent. He admitted that he had known the respondent some years before she was married. When she called on him after that he told him that she was still unmarried. He had visited her at Hastings by her invitation, but he had never represented himself as Mr. Borchardt.—Sir James Hannan said he had no reason to doubt the statement of the co-respondent. He therefore granted a decree nisi, but without costs.

MISCONDUCT WITH KHAMBATA.

In the case of Headland v. Headland and Headland v. Headland and Khambata, the suit was one in which the wife in the first petition made allegations against the husband, and in the other the husband made charges against the wife of misconduct with the co-respondent, a Parsee gentleman. Each of the parties denied the allegations made against them. Mr. Middleton appeared for Mr. Headland; and Mr. H. Deane for Mrs. Headland. The petition of Mrs. Headland was taken first.—Mrs. Ellen Headland said she was married to Mr. Headland, who was a commercial traveller, on the 15th of October, 1879, and afterwards they lived at Harlesden. Three years ago a sister of hers came to live in the house with them, and that caused trouble between her and her husband. Mr. Headland had knocked the petitioner down more than once. The last time was in October, 1888. She had a servant named Eliza Coote, who had witnessed the ill-treatment of the respondent. On that occasion she was seriously hurt, and Dr. Barber attended her. The same medical gentleman was attending Mr. Headland in 1889. Dr. Barber made a communication to her. Her husband first introduced Khambata to her. In July she went to Clifton on a visit to some friends. While she was there she went to an hotel and saw Mr. Khambata. That was in April, 1889.—In cross-examination she said she had been photographed with Mr. Khambata. After the photograph was completed she saw that Khambata had his arm round her, but she did not know that Khambata was in that position. Khambata had slept in their house. She had been to places of amusement with Khambata, and taken home a pair of braces, and told her husband they were a present from Mr. Khambata. Some time after that Mr. Khambata came to their house as a lodger. She admitted that she had thrown an ornament at her husband, but he said he had grossly insulted her. Mr. Headland had knocked the petitioner down more than once. The last time was in October, 1888. She had a servant named Eliza Coote, a domestic servant, and Mrs. Harris having given evidence as to the conduct of Mrs. Headland with Mr. Khambata, Mr. Frederick Headland, the husband, denied that he had ever struck his wife. Khambata first came to their house as a friend. He had to order Khambata out of the house. He (Mr. Headland) had never been guilty of misconduct with any woman in his life.—In giving his decision Sir James Hannan said the charge against Mr. Headland was not made until after he had accused Mrs. Headland of misconduct with Khambata. It had been proved that she had invited Khambata to stop in the house during the absence of her husband, and that she had not communicated the fact to him. He came to the conclusion that Mrs. Headland had been guilty of misconduct with Khambata. There was no corroborative evidence of cruelty against the husband. He thought the husband's charges against

his wife had been established, and that the charges made by Mrs. Headland had not been proved against her husband. He therefore granted him a decree nisi, with costs, and gave him the custody of the child of the marriage.

A CURIOUS CASE.

In the case of Styles v. Styles and Jackson the petition was presented by the husband. There were some very peculiar circumstances connected with the case.—Thomas Styles, an engineer, said he was the petitioner, and had been married previous to the marriage it was now proved might be dissolved. He obtained a decree nisi in a suit he had instituted against his first wife in 1878. Before that decree was made absolute he went through the ceremony of marriage in Scotland with the present respondent. He had been living with her previously. He thought that he could marry six months after he had obtained the decree nisi.—Sir James Hannan: Had you been living with your wife before the six months?—Witness: Yes.—Sir James Hannan: Then you thought you might commit adultery after that?—Witness: I was not aware that I had to have the decree made absolute before I married again. Petitioner said, in reply to questions from Mr. Forman, that the marriage in Scotland took place before the decree was made absolute.—Sir James Hannan here intimated that there were instances in which the Queen's Proctor had intervened in such cases as the present.—Proceeding with his case, the petitioner said he was married to the respondent on the 24th of November, 1879, at St. Nicholas Church, St. Swithin, in Kent. The respondent had given birth to a child before that marriage. He and the respondent lived happily together until 1886, at Vine-road, Croydon. In that year the co-respondent came to live with them as a lodger, and then matters altered. On the 8th of July, 1886, after he had gone to bed, he was induced to get up again, and on going downstairs in his stockings he found the respondent misconducting herself with Jackson. He did not interfere because he was afraid, but he told them what he had seen the next day, and they replied, "A good job too."—Mrs. Flowers, of Vine-road, Croydon, and other witnesses proved the cohabitation of the respondent with the co-respondent as his wife in 1887.—His lordship said that on account of the man's misconduct before the tie to his first wife had been dissolved the Queen's Proctor might have intervened before the decree nisi was made absolute. He did not do so, however, and the marriage was dissolved. After that the petitioner went through a proper and formal marriage with the respondent, with whom he had been living during the existence of the former marriage. That misconduct had not been taken into consideration in the present suit, and the respondent's misconduct had been proved. He granted a decree nisi, with costs.

THE WHARF DISPUTES.

The efforts of the strike leaders to keep out the first gang of coopers at Hay's Wharf on Thursday were successful. As soon as it was known they intended going to work a special private meeting of the union was summoned, which was addressed by Mr. Tillet, who informed the coopers that if they required work they would for the future be blocked everywhere else. The place was strongly picketed, and at about half-past eight, when the coopers made their appearance, they were called to a meeting at Bull's-court, where they were addressed by Mr. H. Orbell, a leading member of the strike committee. In consequence of this only one man out of forty-seven went in. These men held the key to the position, and if they had stood by their resolve to go in the strike would have been at an end. They have not, as has been stated, yet received any extra strike pay. Their pay was 6d. an hour, instead of 6d. to the ordinary hands, but an indemnity will probably be held out to keep them from Brooks's Wharf. Things are unchanged, and all the old hands are still out on strike.

A MAD DOG.
Police-constable 621 T, stationed at Brentford, is a lucky man. A dog, subsequently certified to be mad, flew out of a garden at him and tore his trousers; yet the policeman was not bitten, and the dog was that died." Needless to say it had no muscle on. Proceeding on its insane career, it reached Kew Bridge, where it fought and killed another dog, which was defenceless, owing to its master's obedience to the muscled order. The latter had unquestionably perished.

FATAL MOUNTAINEERING.
The mystery surrounding the fate which befalls the English travellers, Mr. Donkin and Mr. Fox, while ascending one of the lofty peaks of the Caucasus range last winter has at length been cleared up. In an interesting paper read before the Geographical Society, Mr. Freshfield was able to establish the fact that the travellers were the victims of a fall through the shifting of the loose snow, although the search party to which Mr. Freshfield belonged did not succeed in recovering anything save a few personal belongings as mementoes of the unfortunate travellers. There is a melancholy satisfaction, at all events, in knowing that they were not murdered and robbed, as was very generally at one time believed; and over and above the fact that they have satisfactorily established this, the search party have been able to add considerably to our knowledge of the formation of the vast Caucasus range. The heights of the principal peaks are now ascertained. Eight are higher than Mount Blanc, and fifteen are over 15,000 feet high. The four highest are Elbrus, Koestant, Shkara, and Dychtan. It was on the last named that Mr. Donkin and his companion, together with their two guides, lost their lives.

SIR E. WATKIN'S DREAM.
Sir Edward Watkins' dream of the future of our railway system is not limited to a Channel tunnel connecting our lines with the entire continental network. He foresees the day when another tunnel will connect the north of Ireland with the south of Scotland, and passengers will travel from London to Vienna without so much as putting foot on the deck of a ferry boat. Apart from the military question, the details are interesting. The impervious character of the grey lower chalk makes Channel tunnelling, we are told, really an easy task. Colonel Beaumont's boring machine, which by the gradual discharge of the compressed air, keeps the atmosphere uniformly pure for the workers, will cut fifty yards a day, and working from the French and English shores simultaneously would complete the experimental drift-way seven feet in diameter in three years. One-tenth part of this work has long been completed, and is reported to be practically dry, the walls showing no tendency

LAST WEEK'S POLICE.

Guildhall.

COURT TO HORSES.—John Taylor, 34, carman, and Henry Statham, his employee, of Sparrow-court, Minories, were charged by Police-constable Archer, 745, with cruelty to two horses, the former by working them while lame, and the latter with allowing them to be so worked.—The officer deposed that he was in Gracechurch-street that morning when he saw Taylor driving the two horses attached to a van. Noticing that they both went very lame and were in a wretched condition, he stopped the defendant and charged him with cruelty. The animals were suffering from a skin disease, and under the flanks were a number of whip marks.—The veterinary surgeon gave it as his opinion that the animals in their present state were totally unfit for work. It would be great cruelty to work them.—Mr. Alderman Gray: Is anything known of the defendants?—Harris (the gosier): The defendant Statham has been charged before with the same offence, and it was one of these horses.—The alderman observed that it was a gross case of cruelty, and fined Statham 40s. and costs for each horse. Taylor was discharged.

Bow-street.

ALLROAD EXTENSIVE ROBBERY FROM A BANK.—Charles Rivers Allpress, aged 39, alias W. Armitage, was charged, on remand, before Mr. Bridge, under the Fugitive Criminals Act, with stealing £7,000, belonging to the Commercial Bank of Australia, at M-lbourn, where he was employed in January, 1889. On the last occasion evidence of arrest only was given by Inspector Hare and Detective-sergeant Brown, of Scotland Yard. The accused denied that he was Allpress, but subsequently admitted that was his name.—He was remanded in order that the property found in his possession might be examined, and it was now reported that £4,500 had been found in his packages.

Marlborough-street.

A DISORDERLY HOUSE OFF THE HAYMARKET.—John Morris and Madeline, his wife, together with John Milano, a waiter, were charged, on remand, with keeping the Comic Hotel, Panton-street, as a disorderly house. John Morris was also summoned for having retailed brandy without a license.—Chief-inspector Smith, C Division, said that on the 31st of January he and Police-sergeant Lane went to the hotel, and, in consequence of what they witnessed, they arrested the prisoners. Some persons whom they found in the house told them that they had been served with a brandy and soda by Milano, for which they paid 1s. 3d. each, and on going into one of the rooms on the ground floor they found a partly-consumed bottle of brandy. On searching the hotel, no fewer than 500 bottles of wine, most of it being champagne and claret, were discovered.—After some further evidence, Mr. Newton, addressing Morris, said that his establishment would have to be put an end to, and the sooner he closed it the better it would be for him. For keeping it as a disorderly house the penalty would be £20, and £5 costs. It was evident that the female had taken part in the management of the hotel—indeed, she was rated as the occupier, and she would have to pay £10. Milano would enter into his own recognition of £5 to come up for judgment if called upon. With respect to the summons for having sold the brandy without being licensed, John Morris would have to pay a further penalty of £10. The wine could not be confiscated, owing to there being no proof that any of the stock had been sold. The fines were paid, and it was intimated that the house would be closed as soon as possible.

Marylebone.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.—Henry Thomas, 26, of Great Titchfield-street, was charged with stealing a gold brooch, worth £1 5s., the property of Mary Williams, of 12, Park-place, Regent's Park. When first before the court the case was that on the 27th November the prosecutrix and the prisoner met near Regent's Circus. He asked to be allowed to see her home, and she allowed him to do so. On arriving at Park-place, at his suggestion, the prosecutrix asked him into the house, she having first obtained the consent of her landlady. After staying there a while the prisoner left his card and went away, having failed to secure a loan of 5s. which he had asked of the prosecutrix. When he had gone Miss Williams missed her gold brooch. She met him accidentally near Regent's Circus on January 31st, and gave him into custody. The prisoner denied that he was the person referred to, but on him was found a card which corresponded exactly with the card given to the prosecutrix, except that the addressee differed. Inquiries were made after the prisoner was in custody, and at his lodgings in Stanhope-street pawnbrokers were found, one relating to the brooch, which the pawnbroker now produced and which the prosecutrix identified.—Mr. Palmer, solicitor, on behalf of the defence, said his client saw the brooch on the floor of the prosecutrix's room, and being in a humorous state of mind he picked it up. He had been having something to drink, and he put the article into his pocket. The next day he found it on him, and did not know what to do with it.—Having heard witness to character, Mr. Cooke said it was quite clear the prisoner took the brooch. It had been taken by mistake, he ought to have returned it, but, instead of doing so, he went and pawned it. He fined him £5, or in default one month's imprisonment.

Clerkenwell.

WATCH STEALING.—Ellen Williams, 25, a disorderly woman, refusing her address, was charged with stealing a silver watch, value £2, from the person of William H. F. Thompson, a private in the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, stationed at the Tower.—Prosecutor said that on the previous evening he met the prisoner and several other females at King's Cross, and adjourned with them to a public-house, and there paid for some drink. The females "made free" with him in the bar, and on leaving the house he missed his watch. Suspecting the prisoner of having taken it, he called a constable, and gave her into custody. She denied having committed the theft, but on being searched the watch was found in her possession.—Mr. Bros said there were a number of thefts committed by women in the prisoner's class from men who were foolish enough to be enticed into their company. He considered it a very bad robbery indeed, and Williams would have to go to gaol for three months, with hard labour.

Thames.

A BRUTAL ASSAULT.—George Nicholas Rothan-krantz was charged on a warrant with committing an assault on Henry Waller, barman at the Crooked Billet public-house, St. George's East.—The prosecutor had his hand bandaged, and one of his fingers was bitten in a severe manner.—On the night of the 9th of January the prisoner entered the Crooked Billet the worse for liquor, and without being served he commenced drinking other customers' beer, and amongst them a woman's. She remonstrated with him, when he struck her, and on the prosecutor ejecting him he got the little finger of his left hand into his mouth, and would no doubt have bitten it off if a young man named Dyson had not seized him and with great difficulty made him release his hold. He managed to get away, and the prosecutor at first went to the London Hospital, but finding his finger was getting worse he attended the German Hospital, Dalston. On the 31st ult. James Clark, 132 H Division, apprehended the prisoner on a warrant in High-street, White-chapel, and on reading it to him he said, in broken English, he was drunk and did not know what he was doing at the time.—Mr. Lushington suggested that some substantial compensation should be given to the prosecutor, and the prisoner's wife handed over £5 to him. The prisoner thought the case was then settled and was quitting the dock, but was stopped, and Mr. Lushington said he had committed a brutal and savage assault on the prosecutor, and if he had been committed for trial he

might have been sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, but as he had compensated him to a certain extent he should not adopt that course, but he would have to pay a further sum of 40s. or go to prison for a month.

Worship-street.

PAINFUL SCENE.—George Walter May, 33, traveller, of Glenarm-road, Clapton, was charged with having embezzled the sum of £1 2s. 1d. received by him for and on account of his employer, Thomas Wood, ginger-beer manufacturer, of Hackney-road.—The prosecutor said that the prisoner was a carman and traveller, having each day to take out a van laden with aerated waters, ginger-beer, &c., the goods being checked to him on leaving. It was his duty to call at certain public-houses—having a district each day, and there, if goods were delivered and paid for, he would give a receipt; or, if credited, make an entry in his book to that effect. All money it was his duty to pay over, and make out an account each night. His book showed that between October 7th and December 24th goods to the amount of £1 2s. 1d. were left by him with a Mr. Elliott, of the Rose and Crown, Stoke Newington. When the account was sent in a message that it had been paid was received, and the receipt, bearing the signature "W. May" (produced). He (prosecutor) showed it to the prisoner, who declared it a forgery. A constable was called, and the prisoner requested to be taken to Mr. Elliott's. That was done, and notwithstanding the latter recalled the fact that when paying the money the prisoner had made a remark about bad pen with which to sign the receipt, the prisoner still denied having had the money. When given in charge the prisoner said he remembered the incident of the bad pen, and that he had (if the money was put down) either left it on the bar or paid it over.—Mr. Phillips, for the prisoner, said that his client still protested his innocence, and would prefer to go before a jury, as he could not plead guilty.—Mr. Busby said he would send the case for trial on hearing which the prisoner fell down in a fit in the dock, and had to be carried out. On his recovery he was brought back and committed for trial, but Mr. Busby refused to accept bail.

West London.

A THOUSAND BLACK EYES.—Margaret Jinson was charged with violently assaulting her husband, William Jinson, a firewood cutter, while at his employment in Bradmore Park-road, Hammersmith. The prisoner was in custody a short time ago on a charge of robbing a man of £5 10s., whom she took to her house to provide him with a lodgment for the night, and at the sessions she was acquitted.—The complainant, who had a cut on the head, said that on Friday afternoon the prisoner came to where he was working and abused him. He told her to go away, as he did not wish to talk to her. She picked up a piece of wood and said that she would make him talk to her. She threw the piece of wood at him, striking his head and cutting it open. He said that she had cut his head open, and she replied that she would cut out his brains.—The prisoner alleged that her husband was cohabiting with another woman. She (the prisoner) was black and blue through his ill-use.—Police-constable 86 T., who took the prisoner into custody, said she did not complain of being struck by her husband.—Prisoner: He knocked me down like a dog and kicked me. I have been married nineteen years, and have had a thousand black eyes.—Mr. Curtis Bennett said the prisoner had been at that court over and over again. He committed her for one month, with hard labour.—The Prisoner: Thank you, sir.

Lambeth.

ATTEMPTED DOUBLE SUICIDE.—Mary Ann Pitkin, 54, widow, living in Heman-street, Wandsworth-road, was charged before Mr. Partridge, on a warrant, with having on the 29th of January attempted to destroy her life by taking a quantity of precipitate powder on the Thames Embankment.—Police-constable 233 L, stated that on the day in question he was called to the prisoner, whom he found lying on the footpath at the Albert Embankment. She was in an insensible condition, and he was informed by her son, John Charles Pitkin, who was present, that she had taken poison. Witness as soon as possible had her removed to St. Thomas's Hospital, where she had since recovered. A few days back the son swore to the information, upon which the prisoner was taken on the warrant on the present charge. It was now stated that on Friday the son was found in an insensible condition upon the stairs of the house, and it was found he had attempted to destroy his life by taking poison, and he was now detained in St. Thomas's Hospital.—The prisoner, who made a rambling statement, was ordered to be remanded for inquiries to be made.

Westminster.

THE RESULT OF DRINK.—Thomas Cripps, a young man employed at a builder's, living at College-place, Chelsea, was charged on remand, having been a week in custody, with attempting to commit suicide by swallowing laudanum.—Mr. Palmer, solicitor, on behalf of the defence, said his client saw the brooch on the floor of the prosecutrix's room, and being in a humorous state of mind he picked it up. He had been having something to drink, and he put the article into his pocket. The next day he found it on him, and did not know what to do with it.—Having heard witness to character, Mr. Cooke said it was quite clear the prisoner took the brooch. It had been taken by mistake, he ought to have returned it, but, instead of doing so, he went and pawned it. He fined him £5, or in default one month's imprisonment.

Clerkenwell.

AN ADVENTUROUS DRIVE.—Henry Sparks, 20, of Dartrey-road, Chelsea, and Mildred Collins, 23, machinist, of Marlborough-road, S.W., were finally charged, on remand, before Mr. Shell, with stealing a hansom cab, horse, and harness, with the value of £70, the property of Eliza Watson, of Cross-street, Blackfriars-road. Mr. E. D. Rymer prosecuted; and Mr. Duerdin Dutton defended.—At one o'clock on the morning of the 1st inst., Charles Tanner, the driver in charge of the cab, left it close to the Wellington-square, Chelsea, rank while he went to a house to demand a fare from a woman he had driven home. The cabman asked the male prisoner to look after his cab in the mistaken belief that he was the rank attendant, and, returning in a few minutes, found the vehicle gone. At daybreak a constable on duty in Brookmire-road, Fulham, saw the cab, with the prisoner inside and no one on the box, proceeding furiously towards Putney, and although he took up the chase and followed across the bridge, he was distanced, and lost sight of the vehicle. It must have been pulled up in Putney soon afterwards, for the officer, who drove on in a gig, succeeded in coming up with it, the male prisoner at the time standing on the box with the reins in his hand. The horse was completely exhausted, and Mr. Rymer stated that it had done no work since.—The male prisoner said he took the young woman for a country drive, and Mr. Dutton, on their behalf, submitted that it was a drunken freak, for which they were exceedingly sorry, and which would be a lesson to them, they having already been eight days in custody.—Mr. Shell fined the male prisoner 40s., or a month's hard labour, for driving to the common danger, and discharged the woman.

Greenwich.

IMPOSITIONS UPON CLERGYMEN.—The Rev. W. Holland, vicar of All Saints', Hatcham, attended before Mr. Marsham with regard to a man who, he said, called on Friday night at his vicarage during his absence, and producing a case containing a pair of opera-glasses to the servant, said he had been sent from Messrs. Attenborough, Old Kent-road, to deliver them, and that there was 10s. 11d. to pay. The servant paid the money, and when he (the applicant) returned, the glasses were sent to Messrs. Attenborough, who said they had not sent the man, and that similar dodges were often attempted. The opera-glasses were common ones, worth about 3s. The Rev. M. Seaver, of St. Mary's, Peckham, had been called on a similar manner, but fortunately he was at home at the time.—Mr. Marsham referred the applicant to the police, saying that Inspector Phillips would take charge of the case.

INQUESTS.

BURNED TO DEATH.—Dr. Diplock held an inquest at the Flora Hotel, Harrow-road, Kensal Town, on the body of Dorothy Nevis, 75 years of age.—The deceased, the widow of a millwright, resided at 60, Kilburn-lane. On the 29th ult., while putting some coals on her fire, she fell down. Her clothing came in contact with the flames, and the deceased thus received serious injuries, from which she died on Wednesday.—A verdict of accidental death from burns was returned.

FATAL KICK FROM A HORSE.—Mr. John Trout held an inquest at Westminster Hospital relative to the death of George Hodges, aged 41, a horse-keeper, lately residing at 4, Regency-street, who died in that institution from the effects of being kicked by a horse.—The deceased was employed at Mr. Holder's cab-yard in Marsham-street, and was engaged grooming a mare when the animal struck out and kicked him in the abdomen. Deceased was removed to the above hospital, where he eventually succumbed.—It was shown that the animal, which the owner had had in his possession for the last five years, was free from vice, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

MYSTEROUS DEATH OF A WOMAN.—On Saturday Mr. Carter held an inquest in the board room of Greenwich Workhouse on the body of Eleanor Eliza Edgington, aged 23, single, late of 39, Lambert's Buildings, Mill-lane, Deptford.—She had three children, and for some months has cohabited with a man named Carroll, who lives by making chemical experiments in the streets and selling instruction books. He had complained of the deceased going out at night and leaving her baby locked in a room to an inspector at the Blackheath-road Police Station, and the relieving officer came and declined to interfere. He said he took the child to the police, as he was afraid it might die. The next day the deceased seemed despondent. He was in bed, and in the pocket of his coat were several bottles of chemicals, and the deceased sat near it. He did not see her take any of the chemicals, but suddenly she exclaimed, "Bill, I've taken it." He asked her what, and she said, "That acid in your pocket." A bottle which had been three parts full of corrosive sublimate was empty. He took her to the Miller Hospital, and the doctor gave her every attention. The deceased refused to go to the hospital again the next morning. When he found the deceased was neglecting her child, he decided to leave her, and she was afterwards taken into the workhouse. He liked the deceased, and lived happily with her. As to her being based, she said a man had struck her, and she fell against a wall.—Ann Smith, wife of a dock labourer, said she saw the deceased in her room on the day she went to the infirmary.

Deceased said she was ill, and that "the old villain" had been knocking her about for three days. She also said he wanted the baby to lie on the bare boards, and had thrown water on her whilst she was in bed. By the man witness thought she meant Carroll. On the previous day witness had seen Carroll throw several pails of water into the room, and use a broom whilst the deceased was in bed, which was so near the door that some of the water must have gone over it. For it was saturated. She gave the woman food.

—Inspector Folkard, of the E Division, said he saw deceased after Carroll had said he believed she had attempted to commit suicide, and she said, in reply to him, "No, I had nothing but what he gave me; he gave me a cup of tea." Carroll said, "What were you doing at my pockets?" Carroll had said he wanted to give up the room, as he was responsible for the rent.—Sergeant 41 E., lodging-house inspector, said he heard Carroll say he was a married man, and did not intend to live with the deceased any longer.—Mr. Williams, surgeon at the Miller Hospital, deposed to deceased being brought to the hospital by Carroll, and she said she had taken something. He administered an emetic and used the stomach pump, but saw no actual indications of poison. That was on January 23rd.—Mrs. Kirby, superintendent of the receiving ward of Greenwich Workhouse, said deceased was admitted on the 25th ult. She appeared ill, but would not answer questions. There were bruises upon her.—Dr. Burney, medical officer at the Union Infirmary, said deceased was removed there on the 27th ult. She was suffering from injuries to the face, which was much swollen. She said she had been knocked about. On the 30th ult. erysipelas presented itself, and she died on February 3rd, after gradually sinking. Had made a post mortem examination of the body, which was well nourished. There were bruises on the neck, arms, legs, and both eyes. The deceased had been a free liver. Erysipelas would be likely to set up by lying on a damp bed. Her teeth were loose during life. Thought the injuries were received about the 24th of January.—The jury returned a verdict of death from exhaustion following erysipelas from injuries to the face, but how such were caused there was not sufficient evidence to show, and the coroner told Carroll he might consider himself fortunate that the jury had not taken a more serious view of the case, but he would give instructions to the police, and if they got further evidence he might yet find himself charged with causing the deceased's death.

SURPRISING CHILD MURDER AT POPLAR.—Mr. Wynne E. Baxter held an inquest at the Town Hall, Poplar on the body of a female child which was found in Bow Creek on Thursday.

—Thomas Ellis, of 2, Ashton Villas, Stamford-Hope, stated that he was chief mate of the sailing barge Bungay. On Thursday morning he was in his boat when he noticed a small box floating on the water near Ross Wharf. He at once rowed to it and secured the parcel.—By the Coronor: The box was one of Reckitt's blue boxes, and was fastened with a piece of string.

—Walter Scott, 117 K, deposed that he was on duty at Poplar Station on Thursday when the box was brought in by the last witness. There was nothing to show where the box came from or by whom it was placed in the water.—Dr. Maitland Brownfield, of 117, East India Dock-road, deposed to having made an examination of the body. It was decomposed, but he could not say that the child had had a separate existence. It had been properly attended to at birth.—The jury returned an open verdict of

inquest.

GRAVE ERROR OF JUDGMENT.—Mr. George Perceval Wyatt held a lengthened inquiry at the Crown Tavern, Lambeth-road, as to the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Reynold, aged 47 years, lately residing at No. 12, Bond-street, Commercial-road, Lambeth, who expired at her husband's residence on Wednesday. The inquiry was delayed for the purpose of an autopsy of the body. Mr. Frederick Walker watched the case on behalf of the governors and treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, and the police were represented by an inspector of the L Division. The large court-room was crowded.—Frederick Reynold was sworn, and said that he was an upholsterer, and identified the deceased as his wife, a dresser at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand. At half-past six o'clock on Monday evening the deceased left home and proceeded to the theatre. Before she left she said she would return home immediately after the performance was over. Witness never saw her again until an early hour on Tuesday morning, when the police told him that his wife was in one of the female cells at Kennington-road Police Station. He immediately went to the station, and saw his wife lying on the seat in the cell with her head covered in blood. His wife scarcely ever drank beer or spirits, and he had never seen her intoxicated since their marriage. He was present when the doctor saw the deceased. The latter spouted her face. Witness was eventually allowed to remove the deceased home on an ambulance. In answer to a juryman, witness said his wife generally returned home by way of the Strand, crossing Waterloo Bridge, and descending to the Belvedere-road by the right hand stairs. He had been told that the deceased was found lying on the middle landing of the stairs.—Martha Emily Hollitt Barlin said she was a married woman, and resided at No. 3, Lumley

court, Strand. She was engaged with the deceased at the Vaudeville Theatre as a dresser, and had known the deceased as a sober and industrious woman for the past sixteen years. On Monday night she met Mrs. Raymond in the dressing-room at the theatre. They left the Vaudeville at a few minutes after midnight. They entered the tavern adjoining the theatre, where deceased drank twopennyworth of gin and water. Witness had a glass of ale. That was all they had. The deceased had complained of giddiness during the evening. They parted company at the corner of Wellington-street, Strand, when witness said to the deceased, "Remember that at twelve o'clock to-morrow is the dress rehearsal of the new piece, 'Clarissa,' don't be late." The weather was very foggy and cold. She was perfectly sober when she left.—Mr. Henry B. Robinson, the resident house surgeon, said he had been requested by Mr. Alderman Stone, the treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, to attend the inquiry, and he regretted to say that there was an error of judgment on the part of the dresser in not calling in the house surgeon to examine the deceased.—After a few remarks from Mr. F. Walker, the steward of the hospital, the court-room was cleared, and after a long consultation the jury returned a verdict that the deceased, Elizabeth Reynold, met her death by accidentally falling down the stone stairs of Waterloo Bridge. The jury added a rider that there was a grave error of judgment on the part of the dresser, Thurnham, and they hoped in the future that when there was a doubt that the house surgeon or house physician should be summoned to see the case. The deceased was not intoxicated.

CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Speech by Earl Cadogan.

On Saturday afternoon the Countess Cadogan, accompanied by Earl Cadogan, laid the memorial stone of the Central Public Library, Manross-road, Chelsea. Among those present were Mr. G. Whitmore, M.P., Dr. Gladstone, Lady Gilbert Kennedy, the rector of Chelsea, the Rev. G. Blunt, Dr. Dickenson, the Rev. Frederick Elton, Messrs. B. W. Findon, H. Young, G. Hilton, D. H. Hodge, C. Latte, J. McKenzie, J. H. Quinn, the librarian, and many others.

The entrance to the building, when completed, will be through a handsome stone portico, supported by four columns, leading into a short, wide corridor, out of which are the entrances to all the principal departments on the ground floor—the general reading-room, for 220 readers, boys', and ladies' reading-rooms, and the lending library, with 30,000 volumes. A wide staircase leads to the reference library on the first floor, which has book space to accommodate 50,

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Tuesday.

The Queen's Speech.

The fifth session of the twelfth Parliament of the Queen was opened on Tuesday by commission, and both Houses met at two o'clock. The **LOAN CHANCELLOR** read the Queen's speech, as follows:—“My Lords and Gentlemen, My relations with other Powers continue to be of a friendly character. An armed force under a Portuguese officer was despatched during the autumn from the colony of Mozambique into territory where British settlements had been formed, and where there are native tribes who have been taken under my protection. A collision, attended with bloodshed, took place, and acts were committed inconsistent with the respect due to the flag of the country. The Portuguese Government have now, at my request, promised to withdraw their military forces from the territory in question. A conference of the Powers interested in the suppression of the slave trade has been convoked at Brussels by the King of the Belgians. I earnestly hope that the result of its deliberations will advance the great cause for which it is assembled. A commercial convention has been concluded with the Khedive of Egypt, and a provisional arrangement for the adjustment of pressing fiscal questions has been made with the Government of Bulgaria. Papers on all these questions will be presented to you. The convention concluded by me with the Emperor of Germany and the Republic of the United States with respect to the government of Samoa will be laid before you, together with the protocols of the conference; also a treaty which has been concluded with the United States for amending the law of extradition between the two countries. The latter instrument still awaits the ratification of the Senate. The disordered condition of Swaziland having rendered it necessary to make provision for the better government of the territory, the independence of which was recognised by the convention of London. I have, acting in conjunction with the President of the South African Republic, sent a commissioner to learn the views of the Swazis and of the white settlers. I shall await with lively interest the result of the conference now being held to discuss the important question of the federation of the Australian colonies. Any well-considered measure which, by bringing these great colonies into closer union, will increase their welfare and strength, will receive my favourable consideration. Gentlemen of the House of Commons.—The estimates of the year for defraying the cost of the government of the country will be laid before you. They have been drawn with a due regard to economy and to the necessities of the public service. My Lords and Gentlemen.—The continued improvement in the state of Ireland, and the further diminution in the amount of agrarian crime, have made it possible very largely to restrict the area in which it is necessary to deal with certain offences by summary process. Proposals for increasing under due financial precaution the number of occupying owners, for extending to Ireland the principles of local self-government which have already been adopted in England and Scotland, so far as they are applicable to that country; and for improving the material well-being of the population in the poorer districts, will be submitted to you. A bill for facilitating and cheapening the transfer of land in England will be again presented to you. Provisions will be submitted to you for diminishing the difficulty and cost which at present attend the passage of private legislation required for Scotland. A bill for improving the procedure by which tithe is now levied, and for facilitating its redemption, will be laid before you. I have appointed a commission to report upon the best means of improving the economic conditions which affect the inhabitants of some parts of the Western Highlands and islands of Scotland. Your attention will be invited again to a bill for ascertaining the liability of employers in case of accidents, and to a measure for improving the procedure in winding up insolvent companies under the Limited Liability Acts. There will be laid before you bills for the consolidation and amendment of the laws with respect to public health in the metropolis, and to the dwellings of the working classes; and also a bill for the better regulation of savings banks and friendly societies. Your attention will be directed to the state of the accommodation now provided in camps and barracks, and you will be asked to make better provision for the distribution as well as for the health and comfort of my troops. I commend you earnestly in the discharge of your high responsibility to the care and guidance of Almighty God.”

The address in reply was moved by Lord **DA RANKEN**, and seconded by the Earl of **STRADABOKE**.—Earl **GRANVILLE** held that the tone of Lord **SALISBURY**'s despatch to the Portuguese Government was needlessly irritating. He hoped that the bills promised for Ireland would be of a beneficent character.—The Marquis of **SALISBURY** expressed the pain it had given the Government to find themselves at variance with an ancient ally, and pointed out that the Portuguese Government had been repeatedly warned during the last two years that it was impossible to accept the claims which they made. We could not allow the natives of Africa to believe that we were not able to defend those under our protection. With respect to Ireland, there was every reason to believe that the system of government which had been pursued had tended to restore respect for law and property and had diminished the prevalence of crime.—The motion for an address was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Tuesday.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. **BALFOUR** gave notice of the introduction of an Irish Land Purchase Bill for Monday; Sir M. H. **BRACH** of a bill for the Recovery and Redemption of Tithe Rent-charge; the **CHANCELLOR** of the **EXCHEQUER** of a bill for amending the law relating to Trustee Savings Banks; Mr. **BITCHIN** of a bill to compel sanitary authorities who failed to carry out the Allotment Act of 1887 to do their duty; and Mr. **CHARLIE** of a bill with reference to pleuro-pneumonia.

Mr. **PARNELL** and the House.

Mr. **HARCOURT** submitted to the House a motion of privilege relating to the forged letters ascribed to Mr. **PARNELL**, and published in the **Times** on the 18th of April, 1887. He asked both sides of the House to make a stand against the grossest example of demoralisation in politics of modern times. He moved that the publication of the letters, and the comments thereon by the said newspaper, were a false and scandalous libel and breach of the privileges of the House.—Sir J. **GOSCHEN** moved as an amendment that the publication in question did not constitute a breach of the privileges of the House.—Mr. **GLADSTONE** maintained that the offence had not been purged by apology to the House, and proceedings in cases of breach of privilege were a necessary part of the defensive armour of the House. In bringing forward this motion now, they had taken the first and absolutely the only opportunity which a judicial finding offered them of submitting a motion of this character to the House. A great debt remained unpaid to the member for Cork, to the Irish nation, to the honour and dignity of the House.—Mr. **BALFOUR** said the right hon. gentleman knew ten months ago that the **Times** had admitted the libel by paying forty shillings into court, and why he did not bring forward this motion then? If the House took notice of every attack which was supposed to be a breach of privilege, every work of utility which the House might undertake would come to an end.—The **SOLICITOR-GENERAL** contended that the adoption of the motion would be carrying the doctrine of privilege beyond its true meaning, and would form a dangerous precedent in time to come.—Mr. **PARNELL** defended his action in having asked for a Committee of the House, and

gave the Government an opportunity of inserting the word “forged” before the word “letter” in their amendment.—Mr. W. H. **SMITH** assented to this amendment, and expressed the detestation by the Government of the forgery, and their satisfaction that the hon. member had been absolutely and completely freed from the imputation against him.—The word “forged” was then inserted in the amendment, and on a division the motion was rejected by 260 to 212, and the amendment was agreed to.

COMMONS—Wednesday.

England and Portugal.

Sir J. **FRASSON** informed Mr. **CREMER** that the relations between this country and Portugal were friendly, and that the Portuguese Government had suggested a reference of the matters in dispute to arbitration, but that her Majesty's Government considered the case inapplicable to that process.

The Address.

The motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne was made by Mr. **RODEN** and seconded by Lord **BROOKS**.—Mr. **GLADSTONE**, in commenting on the topics in the Queen's speech, expressed his belief that the Government had cause for taking action in the Portuguese question, and he acknowledged that, if there was to have been action at all, it was much better that it should have been prompt. He attributed the improvement in the state of Ireland to the hope of Home Rule among the Irish people and to the improvement which had taken place in the agricultural condition of the country.—Mr. W. H. **SMITH**, in acknowledging the courteous criticism of the right hon. gentleman, deplored that there had been any difference between this country and Portugal, but he believed in the Queen's speech to the labour question, and urged that an English representative should not be sent to the Swiss conference with his hands tied, but with power to discuss any labour question that might arise. He regretted that no reference was made in the Queen's speech of legislation on the sweating system and inspection of sweating dens.—Mr. **BARTLEY** called attention to the question of labour and capital, stating that it was the greatest difficulty to find sufficient employment for the growing population in London, and it had been made more difficult by the sending away of certain industries to other parts of the country. If the cost of shipping in London were increased an enormous amount of work would leave London, which was a most serious matter for its inhabitants. It would drive away the credit of London, and would tend, not only to ruin a great number of employers, but also thousands of employed. This question would have to be gone into, and he suggested that a commission should be appointed to inquire as to the best manner by which labour and capital could be united.—Sir J. **FRASSON** referred to the Portuguese question, and said that it was absolutely without foundation to say that the Portuguese Government were not made fully aware what the views of her Majesty's Government were with regard to the difficulty that had arisen. In the correspondence that had taken place between the two Governments, from first to last there had been an absence of malice. He did not think we could afford to have the British flag hauled down in any part of the world.—Mr. **CREMER**, Mr. **BROADHURST**, Mr. **SAIT**, Mr. O. V. **MORGAN**, Colonel **NOEL**, and Mr. **BYRE** continued the discussion.—After some further discussion the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. **H. POWER**, and the House adjourned at 12 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Thursday.

The Duke of Fife.

The Duke of Fife took the oath and subscribed the roll on his elevation. The procession into the House was headed by the Garter King-at-Arms (Sir A. **WOODS**), the Duke of Norfolk (Earl **MARSHAL**), his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of **WESTMINSTER**.

THE POLICE and the Dock Strike.

Mr. **NOSSA** asked the Home Secretary to state the reason why, during the dock strike, the chief commissioner refused to give the services of the police inside the docks, on the ground that the docks were private property, and the reason why a similar course was not followed during the strike of the gas stokers.—Mr. **MATTHEWS**, in the course of a lengthy reply, said the general rule of the police was not to patrol or watch inside private premises, to which their statutory powers or duties did not extend, unless some breach of the law or public mischief had arisen or was likely to arise. This rule was especially applicable to the London docks, as the dock companies possessed powers of their own for apprehending persons. The information before the commissioner of police led him to believe that the danger was not inside, but outside, the dock gates; but help was given on two occasions when the necessity arose. In the case of the gas strike there was the likelihood of disorder and injury inside the works, owing to the hostile action of the men whose notices had not expired, and who had to work in the immediate vicinity of the men who had come in. The gas company had no statutory powers to appoint constables. The commissioner would have given similar assistance at the docks if a similar danger had existed there. On two occasions the police escorted vans laden with meat, and in the case of all processions through the streets the police escorted them to prevent breaches of the peace either by or to the procession. Police protection was not refused to any body of men anxious to take work at the dock gates. The commissioner acted with strict impartiality in the administration of the law.

THE CARDIFF SAVINGS BANK.

Mr. **GOSCHEN** informed Mr. **HOWELL** that the trustees of the Cardiff Savings Bank had not trusted their willingness to pay the depositors in full. Indefinite suggestions had been made to the Treasury with a view to a settlement. If a settlement were not arrived at, the liability of the trustees and management would have to be enforced by subsequent proceedings.

THE CONDEMNED ZULU CHIEFS.

Sir J. **FRASSON**, answering Mr. A. M. **ARTHUR**, said that by sending the condemned Zulu chiefs Dinizulu, Indabuko, and Ishingano to St. Helena the Government had materially mitigated their sentence. They would now have comparative freedom and be allowed the society of their families.

THE BARRACOUTA EXPLOSION.

Lord G. **HAMILTON**, in answer to Mr. **LEATHAM** and Mr. **GOURLEY**, said the final payment on engines and boilers was not made until the trials were successfully completed. The engines and boilers of the Barracouta were made according to Government specifications. A vessel of the same class, the Barossa, engined by the same firm, had recently passed her steam trial with success.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Mr. **MATTHEWS**, in answer to Mr. **ROWLANDS**, said it had been found advisable to augment the metropolitan police force by 1,000 men. The augmentation could not proceed at a faster rate than 100 men per month. If it was found that the additional cost could not be defrayed out of the present grant the attention of Parliament would be called to the subject.

“CABBY” and the POLICE.

Mr. **MATTHEWS** told Mr. **CAVENDISH BENTINCK** that the commissioner of police had informed him that there was no foundation, so far as he knew, for the allegation reported to have been made by Mr. **JOHN BURNS**, a member of the London County Council, that “the London cabmen had real grievances against the police, who tyrannised against poor ‘cabby’ if the latter could not ‘tip’ them enough.”

DR. TANNER COMPRAISANT.

Mr. **BALFOUR** answered a number of questions with regard to the “shadowing” by the police of one **JOHN SLATTERY**, and on Dr. **TANNER** putting a certain question, the Chief Secretary said he understood it referred to the same subject.—Dr. **TANNER**: No.—Mr. **BALFOUR**: Oh, I beg your pardon.—Dr. **TANNER** (in a loud voice): I accept your apology. (Loud laughter.)—Mr. **BALFOUR** said he had not yet received information with regard to the question.—Dr. **TANNER**: Well, how soon will you have it?—The **SPRINKS**: Order, order.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Baron **de WORMS** brought in a bill to enable her Majesty to assent to a bill for conferring a constitution on Western Australia. The bill was read a first time.

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

Sir M. **HICK-BAUGH** brought in a bill to amend the law relating to the winding-up of companies in England and Wales; also one to give further powers with respect to the alteration of their memoranda of association. Both were read a first time.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. **HOWARTH** (who resumed the debate) said he had many close ties with Portugal. Having but lately visited that country, he thought he might be able to say something which would soften the existing feeling between the Powers, so long allies. He was in Portugal throughout all the recent disturbances, and he saw some boys carrying flags and shouting, “Down with the King! Down with England!” He saw two or three for the formation of the Land League itself. But

Englishmen pushed about and hustled a little; but these were things that were to be seen very frequently in other places with very little comment. The newspapers in their desire to supply sensational news had excited a quarrel between the two nations, though he must say that at Oporto things had been little strained, partly owing to the indiscreet conduct of the English consul. He did not think the expedition of Major **SERPA PINTO** in June was intended as hostile, though he was surrounded by an armed force. He condemned the action of Consul Johnston with the view of checkmating **Serpa Pinto**, who was attacked on the 23rd August, when he took away the British flag from the natives that attacked him. It was Acting-consul Buchanan who declared the territory, then in dispute, annexed to England, but he had no authority to do so, and merely did it to thwart **Serpa Pinto**.—Mr. **LAUBCHEE**, who stated that he would not move the amendment standing in his name, said that in connection with the Triple Alliance France ought to know what assurances England had given to Italy. It was not the business of an English Minister to aid and abet Prince Bismarck in obtaining the sympathies of Italy against France, and he trusted that papers relating to the matter would be laid on the table. Concerning the dispute with Portugal, he agreed that the circumstances under which Lord **SALISBURY** had to act were most difficult. This arose from the action of all the European Powers in regard to Africa, which was looked upon as one huge **NAPHTH** vineyard.—After some remarks from Mr. **MUNRO FERGUSON** and Mr. F. **STEVENS**, Mr. **HARMSWELL** observed that no reference was made in the Queen's speech to the labour question, and urged that an English representative should not be sent to the Swiss conference with his hands tied, but with power to discuss any labour question that might arise. He regretted that no reference was made in the Queen's speech of legislation on the sweating system and inspection of sweating dens.—Mr. **BARTLEY** called attention to the question of labour and capital, stating that it was the greatest difficulty to find sufficient employment for the growing population in London, and it had been made more difficult by the sending away of certain industries to other parts of the country. If the cost of shipping in London were increased an enormous amount of work would leave London, which was a most serious matter for its inhabitants. It would drive away the credit of London, and would tend, not only to ruin a great number of employers, but also thousands of employed. This question would have to be gone into, and he suggested that a commission should be appointed to inquire as to the best manner by which labour and capital could be united.—Sir J. **FRASSON** referred to the Portuguese question, and said that it was absolutely without foundation to say that the Portuguese Government were not made fully aware what the views of her Majesty's Government were with regard to the difficulty that had arisen. In the correspondence that had taken place between the two Governments, from first to last there had been an absence of malice. He did not think we could afford to have the British flag hauled down in any part of the world.—Mr. **CREMER**, Mr. **BROADHURST**, Mr. **SAIT**, Mr. O. V. **MORGAN**, Colonel **NOEL**, and Mr. **BYRE** continued the discussion.—After some further discussion the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. **H. POWER**, and the House adjourned at 12 o'clock.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE

There are 8,550 bands in the Salvation Army. The Royal Horticultural Society has decided to build a hall, &c., in a leading thoroughfare of London, at an estimated cost of £40,000.

Major Paniza and the three other officers who were arrested with him on the charge of plotting against Prince Ferdinand and the Bulgarian Government have been struck off the roll of the army.

The Pope, in order to testify his gratitude towards the Shah of Persia for the benevolence shown by him to the Catholic missions, has conferred upon His Majesty the Grand Cordon of the Order of Pius the Ninth.

Whilst a case was proceeding in Mr. Baron Huddleston's court the other day, a gentleman, who was sitting in the front row of the jury box, suddenly fell from his seat in a fit. The court was adjourned before its usual time, and the gentleman was with some difficulty got from the jury box and carried into an adjacent chamber.

The German steamer *Rhethia* has arrived off Dover, and reports that she met with the Persian Monarch on February 7th, with a broken propeller, endeavouring to continue her journey to New York under sail. She had then been out from London twenty-one days, and had 1,100 miles more to sail to accomplish her journey.

At the invitation of the sheriff of Oxford, Mr. Robert Grubb, a large company met Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., at breakfast, in the town hall, Oxford, on Thursday. Sir Wilfrid spoke on the importance of total prohibition, and said the signs of the times showed that they were getting on in this direction.

Petitions against the continuance of the muzzling order, signed by over 5,000 leading exhibitors and breeders assembled at the Liverpool Dog Show, as well as another equally representative petition from Manchester, have been presented to Mr. Chaplin, the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Chaplin has promised to give the matter immediate attention.

William Murphy, a gas stoker, was charged at the Greenwich Police Court with assaulting another stoker named Arnold. It appeared that the prisoner was one of several men who had been on strike, and who, on the night of the 8th inst. made a savage attack on the prosecutor, who was employed by the South Metropolitan Gas Company. He was sentenced to a month's hard labour.

On the Tredeiving will case being called on again before Mr. Justice Butt, it was announced that the parties had come to terms by which the will set up would be established, one of the objections to it having been, as admitted by the persons who drew up the will, that he had "touched up" the signatures of the attesting witnesses to make them look more elegant.

A meeting was held in the Princes Hall in support of the women's trades association. Lord Dunraven presided, and urged the necessity of combination among the women workers at the East-end, and that they should receive the sympathy and assistance of those who could help them to help themselves. The Bishop of Bedford moved a resolution in favour of peaceful organisation among the women.

It was stated at the half-yearly meeting of the London Financial Association that the company received no income from the Alexandra Palace, and saw no immediate prospect of one. The mortgagors had been reduced from £220,000 to £100,000, and that must be got rid of, although the means of doing so had not yet been decided. The association had lost over £1,000,000 by the palace.

A large number of persons engaged in the fish trade of the metropolis assembled at Billingsgate Market to protest against the excessive quantity of ice that was put in the packages from some of the ports on the east coast. A resolution was passed denouncing the practice as a fraud, and it was determined to bring the matter before various authorities, and, if necessary, to apply to the Government.

An action brought by Lord Clifton against the Central News, Limited, has been heard by Mr. Justice Mathew. The defendants had wrongly stated that Lord Clifton was defendant in an assault case tried in Dublin, and, as the object of the action was to disprove that allegation, the judge suggested a settlement. The defendants made an apology, and consented to judgment being entered for the plaintiff for forty shillings and costs.

A man named William Legg, of Wareham, was found dead on the railway between Esher and Walton. The guard of the Weymouth excursion states that he put a passenger in a compartment by himself at Waterloo. On the arrival of the train at Basingstoke he was informed that the door was open on the off side and the passenger gone, a rug and a cap being left in the compartment. The deceased had travelled from Wareham by the excursion train.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1889, when there was a balance of £5,592,000, to February 8th, 1890, were £73,913,423, against £73,319,427 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £7,647,072. The net expenditure was £72,525,480, against £72,097,718 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on the 8th of February, 1890, amounted to £4,732,951, and at the same date in 1889 to £4,422,652.

The Sergeant-at-Arms has, for the convenience of members of Parliament and others whose duties call them to the House of Commons, arranged with the Hoy Messengers' Company for a service of boy messengers, which commenced on Tuesday. When the House met messengers were stationed at the Central Hall and at the Committee Corridor, both of which stations are connected with the company's Westminster office by private telephones, erected under the sanction of the First Commissioner of Works.

Edward Green, a clerk, was brought up on remand, at the Guildhall Police Court, charged with discharging firearms in a public-house, and with threatening Miss Simpson, a barmaid, who stated that Green had been a great trouble to her for the last twelve months, because she refused to go out with him, and he had threatened to make her life a misery to her. The magistrate fined the prisoner £5, for firing revolver in the public-house, and with regard to the threats ordered him to find a surety in £20 for six months.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court, Mr. T. B. Westcott, a member of the London County Council and of the St. Pancras Vestry, was summoned for letting and suffering to be occupied, under conditions which did not comply with the Metropolis Local Management Act, certain rooms or cellars as underground dwellings at three houses in Charles-street, Somers Town. Evidence for the prosecution and the defence having been adduced, the magistrate reserved his decision, adjourning the case for a week.

Three men were, at the Lambeth Police Court, charged on remand with being concerned in breaking into three unoccupied houses in the Clapham-road, and stealing a large quantity of lead, gas-tin-tins, &c., therefrom. One of them, on being arrested, took up a piece of iron to strike a constable, but was prevented from doing so. It was stated that the houses had been wrecked, and that damage to the extent of £50 was done. The men were committed for trial. A boy who was brought up with them was discharged, to be taken to a home.

The assessment committee of the Croydon Union are discussing a further appeal by the Crystal Palace Company with regard to their assessment. It has been ascertained that within the last two years a reduction of £10,000 has been made, a fact which has caused much surprise. At a special meeting of the board of guardians a resolution was passed authorising the assessment committee to appoint an accountant to attend with the chairman and clerk to examine the books and accounts of the company. The difference in the

rates of the Croydon Union, owing to the reduction, being nearly £3,500 per annum.

Sculler Searle left £6,000—so, at least, the Australian papers say.

The average interest paid by the Great London Gas companies averages about 12 1/2 per cent. on a total capital of £14,250,000.

Sydney policemen locked up a blind beggar, who, when searched, was found to be worth £911 10s.

A farmhouse has been burned down near Stevenson, Alabama. The farmer, his wife, and four children perished in the flames.

A farmhouse near Westport, New York, was entered the other night by burglars, who killed a woman and fatally wounded her husband.

Here is a romantic incident from Ohio. A male attendant in a hospital for the insane at Columbus eloped with one of the patients, a young lady of 19.

Jules Verne is said to have obtained the name by which the world knows him by giving the French form to his real patronymic, Olchewitsch, which is Polish.

A Russian proverb, specially dedicated to bachelors:—"Before you go to war, pray once; before you go to sea, pray twice; before you go to be married, pray three times."

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lady Winifred Byng, eldest daughter of the Earl of Carnarvon, and Mr. Herbert Gardner, M.P.

In Copenhagen, a school dealing with social and political questions has recently been opened for women. Among the subjects taught are contemporaneous history, constitutional law, ethics, and psychology.

Brutally frank are Yankee journalists. A recent Chicago criticism was headed thus:—"Pigtailed and pig-headed hogwash. The drama put in the bribe, and mirth slung out like sausages."

Fifty years ago one Tom Monahan landed at Sydney a penniless immigrant. When he died and his demise took place at Elsternwick, in Victoria, his trustees paid £48,150 to the Victorian revenue as probate money.

The Prince of Wales will, according to a statement in the Berlin Post, visit that city on the 22nd of March, in order to attend the chapter of the Black Eagle Order and the festivals in connection with it.

A Fact.—Mistress: So I hear you're engaged to be married, Sarah.—Maid: Well not exactly, mum. But I have had the first refusal of an offer from a master carpenter, and I think I ought to accept it.

It is pleasant to be at one of the great municipal balls at the Paris Hôtel de Ville? For the last 12,000 invitations were issued, and most of the cards were delivered up at the door by those who received them. It is said—mildly dictum—that two-thirds of the ladies made their own dresses.

The bodies of two men and two women, all bearing bullet wounds, have been found at a spot thirty miles from Purcell, Kansas. A wagon was close to the place where the bodies were discovered, but the horses had gone. So far there is no clue to the murderers.

A present of 5,000 books has recently been made by the British Museum to the Guildhall Library. There is an English collection, numbering upwards of 1,700 volumes, including some very curious old books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and about 11,000 pamphlets.

Nine tons of mummified cats from Egypt were sold by auction in Liverpool the other day, this being the second consignment. There was keen competition, the room being crowded. Heads brought as much as 4s. 6d. each; complete body without head, 5s. 6d.; some bones, 3s.; while the bulb was disposed of at 2s. 6d. 6d. per ton.

At the St. Pancras Workhouse, an extraordinary meeting of the guardians of the poor was held to receive a report from the special joint committee appointed to confer with the Midland Company in reference to their offer to purchase the workhouse. The report considers the sum of £120,000 submitted as a final offer totally inadequate for the whole of the property.

Cupid ran mad again! Jacob Schreiber and George Wissner, of Batesville, Arkansas, were both encoured of Miss Emma Fry. Schreiber saw his rival talking to the young lady, and in a fit of mad jealousy he shot at both. The poor girl was killed, but Wissner was only slightly wounded. Nemesis pursued Schreiber—a bullet struck him down as he rode away.

Seldom at this time of year has London been so beautiful with spring flowers as it is at present. Not only are they to be seen in the windows of West-end florists, in the baskets of the "button-hole" sellers at the corners of the streets, and in the coats and dresses of men and women, but they have, together with the buds of the lilac trees, come into evidence in many of the gardens of our squares. A bunch of snowdrops has been gathered within a few yards of Regent-street.

At West Kirby Church, Cheshire, was celebrated the other day the marriage of Sir William Charley, Common Serjeant of London, to Miss Clara Harford, daughter of Mr. F. G. Harford, of Kirby Park. The bride wore a handsome dress of duchesse satin with a court train and tulip veil fastened with a large diamond spray. Among the presents was a massive silver salver and silver-mounted claret jug given by members of the bar of the Central Criminal Court.

When the trial of the action for alleged conspiracy brought by Mr. A. J. Marks against Messrs. Heywood was resumed on Tuesday, the plaintiff called Sir A. Stephenson, director of prosecutions, who, however, refused to produce certain documents required by Mr. Marks. At the close of the plaintiff's case, Mr. Baron Huddleston ruled that there was no evidence against either of the defendants to leave to the jury, and he nonsuited the plaintiff.

James Dowdins, late hotel-keeper, of Portsmouth, has been committed for trial at Lowestoft on a charge of bigamy. His second wife, with whom he had been living nineteen years, gave evidence, while the first wife was present in court, and appeared to be on affectionate terms with her husband.

Jesse Blunden, goods guard, was engaged at the West Junction, Reading, making up a train for the Basingstoke branch, when the Flying Dutchman approached at full speed, striking the poor fellow and killing him, his body being hurled some distance. Blunden had been in the company's service thirty years, was 52 years of age, and leaves a wife and family.

Lord Harris, the new governor of Bombay, was entertained at dinner on Wednesday night by his political and other friends, on whose behalf Lord Lewisham, M.P., made to him a presentation of plate. In acknowledging it, Lord Harris said this action of his friends would stimulate him to do his duty towards those whose affairs he had been called upon to administer in India.

The Metropolitan Railway shareholders have decided to promote a bill which will authorise the directors, among other things, to join other companies in constructing a subway between King's Cross Station and the Metropolitan Railway, and a subway between Gower-street and the new local lines station of the London and North-Western Railway.

Samuel T. Stirling, chief clerk in the office of the Liverpool registrar of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, has been committed for trial on the charge of removing stamps from documents and selling them again. Prisoner stated that the defalcations were between £500 and £600, but the registrar said the amount was larger.

A disastrous collision occurred on the Mersey on Thursday. The steamer Harwood, outward bound for Gothenburg, collided with great force with the Norwegian barque Ebenezer, which was at anchor, and which at once commenced to fill. Boats were launched, and the crew of the barque transferred to the steamer, which did not appear to have sustained any serious damage. The barque sank shortly afterwards.

At an examination for Speed Certificates held at the London Phonetic Shorthand Writers' Association on the 30th January, Mr. Bernard de Bear, of the Metropolitan School of Shorthand, accomplished the task of writing from dictation 2,000 words of ordinary newspaper matter in 10 minutes, and afterwards correctly transcribed his notes.

fendants, and on appeal that verdict was upheld by Justices Cave and A. L. Smith.

Some Ceylon tea planters are about to try manuring their tea plants with old rags.

Birmingham is the proud possessor of a female cabdriver.

A sort of sheath, by which ladies may hang their umbrellas like swords at their sides, has been invented.

The railway across Siberia proposed by the Russian Government will cost £25,000,000, and will take ten years to complete.

A man has been killed at a target shooting in Pennsylvania. The singular feature is that he was near the target.

Within fifty-three years 106,000 couples have been married in Manchester Cathedral. This is an average of over five per diem.

There lately passed across the Red Sea from the African to the Arabian shore a flight of locusts calculated to have covered over 2,000 square miles.

There is a young woman named Miss Tilly Falter in Jersey city who can thread five needles in six minutes. This is said to be a record.

Josef Hoffman, the child pianist, is said to look very much older and to be getting quite manly. It is not known when he will reappear in the concert-room.

534,935 persons were employed in or about mines in the United Kingdom last year. There were 888 deaths from fatal accidents, this number being 107 less than in 1888.

Lord Charles Beresford will command the bearded cruiser Undaunted on Tuesday next at Devonport, and, it is expected, will sail for the Mediterranean early in March.

The Ibo people in Africa kill the children who cut their upper teeth first, sparing only those whose lower teeth come first. The Omisha people kill all twins.

The fastest time made by an electrical railway is a mile a minute by a small experimental car. On a street railway system twenty miles an hour is the fastest.

Sportmen in America are beginning to look after the preservation of game as keenly as do their English confrères. Some very stringent game laws have recently been passed.

There is said to be a porter at Covent Garden Market who is capable of carrying 400lb. weight on his back. There are over 1,000 regular porters in the market.

Shipbuilding in Great Britain rose to 1,290,000 tons in 1883; it fell in 1886 to 400,000 tons; last year, 1889, it rose again to 1,300,000, an increase of 400,000 tons on the production of 1888.

The committee of the Home of Rest for Horses have made arrangements to transfer the home from Sudbury to more extensive premises at Friars' Place Farm, Acton.

A model in ice of the Eiffel Tower has been erected at St. Petersburg. It is 165 feet high, is made up of 10,000 blocks, and is lighted by electricity.

For the year 1888 the general death rate was the lowest on record, being only 17.6 per thousand. In the period from 1871-80 the average was 21.38 per thousand.

A railway carriage fitted with automatically locking door handles has been tried on the North British Railway. The doors cannot be opened until the train is at a standstill.

The world's annual consumption of ivory is estimated at 1,100 tons, the value of which is £1,100,000. On an average, 500 tons annually pass through the London market.

Laundry-work must be rather expensive in the Transvaal. At Johannesburg the Kafir washer-women and men charge fifteen to eighteen pence for washing and "getting up" an ordinary white shirt.

Writing from Tenerife, a correspondent states that, notwithstanding the widespread character of the influenza epidemic, the Canary Islands have been and are entirely free from the complaint.

An important gathering of Freemasons took place at the Mansion House, when, by special dispensation of the Prince of Wales, the Lord Mayor was installed as Master of the Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2,127, at that place.

The Queen has, by an order in council, acceded to the memorial of the directors of the Bank of England that they may increase their issue of notes by £250,000 in consequence of some banks having ceased to issue their own notes.

The scheme, for which Parliamentary sanction was to have been sought this session, for incorporating a joint sewage board for the drainage of Staines, Chertsey, and the Thames Valley, has been abandoned, and the bill authorising the scheme withdrawn.

A new discovery has been made by a Hungarian patriotic writer. Here it is:—"The English aristocracy drink themselves to death with beer. So terrible is the curse for malt liquor that the flowers at fashionable entertainments are arranged in tumblers of ale."

Official correspondence is published respecting the affairs of Samoa. The despatches date from April, 1889, to the 5th inst., and they deal with the conference at Berlin, and the arrangements made to carry into effect the resolutions arrived at. The last despatch, from Sir Julian Pauncefote, at Washington, notifies the ratification by the United States Senate of the Samoan General Act.

The Indian troops Malabar sailed from Portsmouth on Thursday for Bombay. She takes the 1st Bedford Regiment, numbering 24 officers, 735 men, 45 women, and 73 children to Malta, at which place she will embark the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment for conveyance to Bombay, numbering 42 officers, 434 men, 45 women, and 71 children. The Malabar also takes out about 220 details of various corps.

At St. Peter's, Eaton-square, one of the Queen's maid-of-honour, the Hon. Frederica Fitzroy, daughter of the Countess and the late Earl of Southampton, was married to Mr. Percy E. Crutchley, the eldest son of General Crutchley of Sunninghill Park, Ascot. The Queen attended her interview in the wedding by presenting the bride with a handsome diamond pendant and a Brussels lace veil.

At Blackburn, Maris Dobson, aged 60 years, charwoman, was charged, under the new Protection of Children Act, and at the instigation of

NOTICE.

To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the MANAGER, and not to the EDITOR.

PERSONAL.

WILL not let him know.—E. S. T. P.

MATRIMONY.—Gentleman wishes to correspond with an attractive young lady.—M. 65, 54, New Oxford-street.

I should like to have the name of W. J. G. BRADLEY, who will, on the death of his mother, leave something to his advantage by applying to R. SETTING, 56, Grove-road, Gray's Inn.

MARRIAGE.—Middle-aged Bachelor, gentleman by birth, education, and profession, wishes to correspond with ladies of some means, with view to early marriage.—John Standish of Kelly's Library, Victoria-street, Regent-street, W.

If JAMES ENNIS, cabinet-maker, last heard of 22 years ago, is at 13, Church-street, Spitalfields, will communicate with him.—J. HOLLIS, 142, Aldermanbury-road, Bermondsey, he will hear of something to his advantage.

ARE you entitled to property which you cannot claim because you cannot get the particulars? If so, remain in ignorance no longer: send for our Register and see if it contains the name you want. In 6d, contains 50,000 names, since 1789.

ADAMS and CO. (Successors to Cox and Co.), 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, W.C.

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Houses, &c., or Articles for Sale,
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6d. PER LINE, OR EIGHT WORDS, AFTER.
These rates apply only to private or individual
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of the above descriptions when sent by the
advertiser in his trade or professional character.

Prepayment is indispensable.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

GENERAL SERVANT, 18, neat girl, 6 months' character, wages 1s. 6d. weekly.—Margaret D., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, 16, tall girl, good reference, wages 1s. 6d. weekly.—Elizabeth C., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, 17, good reference, wages 1s. 6d. weekly.—Lizze S., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 20, strong, respectable, 7 months' character, wages 1s. 6d.—Alice, Hetherington's, 100, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

YOUNG GENERAL OR NURSE, country girl, age 17, wages 1s. 6d. weekly.—John, Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, W.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 22, able to do plain cooking, little washing, wages 1s. 6d.—Hetherington's, 100, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, tall, strong, country girl, good plain cook, good personal character, wages 1s. 6d.—Kate, Hetherington's, 100, Edgware-road, W.

NURSEMAID, age 16, tall, nice appearance, fond of children, good sewer, wages 1s. 6d.—Amy, Hetherington's, 100, Edgware-road, W.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, tall, bright, willing girl.—Apply, Lizzie, Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, strong, healthy girl, able to do plain cooking, fond of children, 11 months' character, wages 1s. 6d.—Apply, Mary, Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 22, tall, nice appearance, able to cook 2 years and 6 months' character, business house not objected to, wages 1s. 6d.—Apply, Jane, Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

NURSEMAID, about 18, 2 children, 3 and 5 years, general kept, wages 2s.—Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

YOUNG GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 16 or 17, 2 in family, good home, wages 2s.—Mrs. C., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GOOD GENERAL SERVANT, about 25, 1 in family, washing put out, wages 2s.—Mrs. B., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

YOUNG SERVANT wanted, aged 15 to 17, only 3 in family, comfortable situation, wages 2s. weekly.—Apply, Mrs. F., Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

HOUSE-MAID wanted, for business house, age 19 to 25, waiting at table not required, no washing, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d. weekly.—Apply, Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 19 to 25, little knowledge of cooking, no washing, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply, Mrs. Hetherington's, 100, Mile End-road.

YOUNG HOUSE-MAID wanted, aged about 17, easy place, good home, wages 2s. 6d.—Mrs. H., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Brixton.

KITCHEN-MAID wanted, aged from 18, first-class place, wages 2s.—Mrs. L., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Brixton.

YOUNG NURSE wanted, aged 18 or 20, must be to and from children, wages 2s. or 2s. 6d.—Mrs. G., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Brixton.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, aged 18, in family, little cooking, no washing, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. H., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 19 to 25, 1 in family, little cooking, no washing, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. H., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Clapham Junction.

NURSE and HOUSE-MAID wanted, age 20, assist in light housework of a morning, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. A., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Clapham Junction.

HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAID, age 25, under-housemaid kept, wages 2s. 6d.—Mrs. V., Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington.

SEVERAL Good Situations for COOKS, age under 20, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

UNDER-HOUSE-MAID, age about 17, 4 in family, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, 100, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

YOUNG SERVANT wanted, age 18, to assist another, small family, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. G., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAID wanted, age about 25, 2 in family, 2 servants, wages 2s. 6d.—Mrs. H., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

UNDER-HOUSE-MAID wanted, age about 18, small family, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. P., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

COOK wanted, age 20 to 30, 2 in family, good place, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. V., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age about 25, for 1 lady, another lady, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. B., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age about 25, small family, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. P., Hetherington's, 100, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish Town.

PLAIN COOK wanted, age 25 to 30, 2 in family, 1 other servant, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, 100, Edgware-road.

TWO GENERAL SERVANTS, aged 18 to 24, small family, plain cooking, no washing, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, 100, Edgware-road, W.

HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAIDS wanted, age 20 to 25.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, 100, Edgware-road, W.

TWO GENERAL SERVANTS wanted, 20 to 25, one willing to be taught cooking, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d. for housemaid duties, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. F., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

SEVERAL GOOD PLAIN COOKS wanted, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—GENERAL SERVANTS, aged 18 to 24, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to F. W. Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

PARLOUR-MAID wanted, age 24 to 26, small family, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Mrs. W., Hetherington's, 100, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 18 to 20, for a business house, 4 in family, no washing, very good situation, wages 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Apply or write to Hetherington's, 100, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

COOK wanted, 2s. to 2s. 6d.—HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAID, 2s. to 2s. 6d.—Good General Servants may do: for newly-married lady, just commencing housekeeping.—Mrs. Pipe, 40, Edgware-road, Hyde Park.

SITUATIONS VACANT—(CONTINUED).

APPRENTICE wanted (sharp Lad), to learn Bicycle and Tricycle Engineering in large steam cycle factor: will be thoroughly taught; premium required, returned as wages.—Cycles, 5s, Blackheath-road, S.E.

YOUNG BOYS.—All classes requiring any Employment, mean write or call. Situation Guide free. Hundreds used. Busy time.—TANNER and CO., 112, Newington Causeway, London. Men, late Army and Navy also write.

12s. Ed. A WEEK Salary offered either sex (able to write) everywhere, on the word of honour, to be paid in full, to come into my service for 18 months.—S. SMITH and CO., 60, Chester-street, North Kensington, London. Genuine.

GOOD addition to income secured by selling our Matches Blended TEAS in packets; best terms in the trade: make and sell either sex.—Write, Manager, H. Alderman, W. Lambeth.

OCCUPATION. Profitable and Pleasant—1s. to 2s. per week: well-constructed home by Automatic Knitting Machine: cash or hire: work supplied.—P. S. Company, 67, South-street, London; 18, Oxford-street, W. 1, Upper-street, Islington; 18, Broad-street, Corner, Birmingham.

GOLD WATCH GIVEN as a Reward to all Female Servants who have remained in their situations two years. For particulars, see DOMESTIC HELP, published Weekly, one Penny, at all Booksellers, or direct from the Publisher, F. W. Hetherington, 22, Strand, London, W.C.

COLLECTORS and CAVANASSERS wanted for the Royal London Friendly Society, established 1861; reserve funds, £200,000; cash or bank deposit, £100; £100 deposit, £100; £100 well-built houses for £100 and no mortgage, £100; £100 best part of that favourite letting locality, £100; £100 cash to build; all let to respectable tenants; lease 15 years; low ground rent; only want seeing to sell immediately.—No let is answered, but personal application only.

JUSTINS, Maple Vale, 10, Lower-street, West Croydon, and property.

FOUR WELL-BUILT HOUSES for £100 and no mortgage, £100; £100 best part of that favourite letting locality, £100; £100 cash to build; all let to respectable tenants; lease 15 years; low ground rent; only want seeing to sell immediately.—No let is answered, but personal application only.

£100 weekly well-built houses for £100 and no mortgage, £100; £100 best part of that favourite letting locality, £100; £100 cash to build; all let to respectable tenants; lease 15 years; low ground rent; only want seeing to sell immediately.—No let is answered, but personal application only.

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£100 weekly well-built houses for £100 and no mortgage, £100; £100 best part of that favourite letting locality, £10

THE BURGLARY SEASON IN LONDON.

At the Marlborough Police Court, Arthur Andrews, 31, described as a carpenter, and Edward Baxter, 27, a gasfitter, were charged with burglariously breaking and entering 25, Dennington Park-road, West Hampstead, on the 19th January and on the 5th last, and on the former occasion stealing two pairs of trousers, an umbrella, and other property, belonging to Mr. A. A. Hardie, an accountant. They were further charged with burglariously breaking and entering 27, Dennington Park-road, the house of Mr. Charles Denovrel. Mr. Bilner, solicitor, prosecuted.—The evidence was that, owing to illness, the family had left the house, and that on the 19th January Mr. Hardie visited it, and found it had been forcibly entered, and the cupboards and drawers broken open. He missed two pairs of trousers, two tweed coats, a light overcoat, some plated spoons and forks, and an umbrella. The property was worth quite £3 or £4. Detective-servant Welham, S Division, visited the premises and found that they had been broken into. There was a chamois leather on the floor, and one of the prisoners had trod on it, and the impression of a hob-nailed boot was left, which corresponded with the boots of one of the prisoners. On the 5th inst. burglars again broke into Mr. Hardie's house, before the family returned, by forcing the breakfast-room window. They made their way through the house, and into the garden of No. 27. There the house was broken into. About a quarter after the morning, Ann Pitman, Mr. Denovrel's servant, was awakened by her room door being forced open. She struck a match, and saw the prisoners just outside the door, and she called, "Who is that?" and they went away. She got up and went downstairs, and not finding the men, she communicated with the police.—Constable Snow, 603 S, hastened to Mr. Denovrel's house, and was afterwards joined by Constable Bedford, 223 S. Not finding the men in No. 27, snow climbed the garden wall, broke through a wire fence, and in so doing fell into the garden of No. 25, and the light of his lamp was extinguished. Without stopping to re-light it, snow entered the open door of Mr. Hardie's house. Just inside the door he saw a figure in the dark, and discovering it was a man, he went for him, staff in hand, and seized him by the throat, and told him he should strike him if he dared to make any resistance. That man turned out to be the prisoner Baxter. At that moment Andrews was standing near the kitchen window, and Constable Bedford arrested him.—The prisoners were committed for trial.

Extensive Robberies at Brixton and Camberwell.

Stephen Dirlwell, 22, costermonger, was charged before Mr. Partridge, at Lambeth Police Court on Friday, with being concerned with Joseph Holland, James Tuck, and Henry Copeman (now undergoing sentences of penal servitude), in committing burglaries at houses in Josephine Avenue, Brixton, and Glastonbury-road, Camberwell, and stealing therefrom property valued at upwards of £100. The dwellings in question had been burglariously broken into. Entry to these houses, as well as many others was effected by the glass panels of the street door being broken, and thereby allowing a hand to be passed through so as to remove the lock. The houses had been left without any caretaker. A man named Baker was locked up for drunken and disorderly conduct, and in consequence of something he said, Detective-inspector Harvey, Inspector Race, and Sergeant Leonard pushed forward inquiries, which resulted in Holland, Jones, Tuck, and Copeman being taken into custody, and the discovery of nearly all the stolen property, as well as a large amount of other property, the proceeds of burglaries at Balham Forest Hill, Sydenham, Peckham, New Cross, and other districts of South London. The property so recovered and identified was valued at several hundred pounds. In the present case Sergeant Leonard traced the prisoner to a house in Tabard Street, Borough, and took him into custody. He said he had expected it, and had been in a constant state of anxiety ever since the first arrests.—A woman named Whiffen, at whose house some of the property stolen from the burglaries at Brixton and Glastonbury-road was found, was charged on the first occasion with receiving the same, and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour at the sessions. She was now brought up in the custody of a warden from Millbank Prison, and gave evidence showing that the prisoner was one of the men who had brought the stolen property to her house.—The prisoner declined to say anything in defence, and was fully committed for trial.

A TERRIBLE CONSPIRACY.

Extraordinary Behaviour of a Girl.

A few months ago a domestic servant, named Mary Ellen Bond, preferred a charge of assault against her master, S. S. Naylor, an official in the employ of the Bradford Corporation. Her statement was of a most positive kind, and Naylor upon being admitted to bail disappeared, leaving his friends to pay very heavy amounts as defaulting sureties. On Friday morning a local solicitor applied at the Bradford Police Court for the withdrawal of the warrant, and produced a written statement, signed in the presence of three witnesses, in which the girl says that her previous statement was entirely false. The girl herself was put into the box, and stated that she was put up to it by her master for the purpose of extorting money. The stipendiary observed that it was a horrid conspiracy, and the girl, who would probably be proceeded against, had rendered herself liable to a considerable term of penal servitude. Further inquiries are to be instituted.

THE LIABILITY OF LANDLORDS.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Friday, an action was brought by Miss Venour (through her father, Major Venour, of the Indian Army) against Mr. Steer, the landlord of the Marlborough Mansions, Victoria-street, to recover damages for personal injuries.—It appeared that at the time of the accident with the lift, which caused Miss Venour serious hurt, Surgeon-major Venour, with his wife and family, were staying at the mansions in a flat which had been sub-let to a Mrs. Branson, and the defendant set up a contract whereby the tenant stipulated that the defendant should not be liable for any accident.—Mr. Justice Stephen, however, held that the defendant would be liable, notwithstanding that contract, if his servants had been guilty of negligence in the matter, and that the contract, even if it bound Mrs. Branson, the tenant, could not bind her sub-tenants or visitors.—The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £155, and his lordship gave judgment for the amount, with costs.

THE PELICAN CLUB AND MR. BAIRD.

In the Chancery Division on Friday, before Mr. Justice Stirling, Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., said that there was a motion, in which he was with Sir H. Davey, who asked for an interim injunction in the case of Baird against Wells and another.—Mr. Graham Hastings, Q.C., did not appear for the defendants, but he had not even all their evidence yet, and he proposed that the motion should stand over for a week. He did not see what objection there could be to that, for as he understood, the present status quo was that the plaintiff was outside the club now.—Sir C. Russell: "None; he has been called upon to resign."—Mr. Hastings: "I am instructed that the committee meet on Monday, and the plaintiff will then have an opportunity of appearing before them."—Sir C. Russell: "Well, I don't know that that is anything. It is a committee that has practically already taken hostile action against me."—Mr. Hastings: "Well, had it not better stand over for a week?"—After some further discussion, the motion was ordered to stand over for a week. Mr. Hastings giving an undertaking that no further step should be taken towards expulsion.

The Festival of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution will be held at the Hotel Metropole on Monday, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Minton.

THE CREWE MURDER.

Commital of the Prisoners.

At the Crewe Police Court on Thursday, Richard Davies, 18 years of age, and George Davies, 16, brothers, were brought up on a charge of the wilful murder of Richard Davies, their father, on a highway at Basford, on the night of January 25th. There was again a crowded court. Just before the prisoners were brought up in court of the police officers had to warn the people in court of pickpockets, a woman in court just having, he said, been robbed. The prisoners when brought in looked as if they had recently been crying. They appeared to pay attention to the proceedings.—Sarah Ann Leach said she assisted her daughter at a general shop in Victoria-street, Crewe. She was in the shop on the 25th of January. At about eight o'clock in the evening the prisoner George came in and asked for a twopenny box of gun caps. He was served with them. During the same evening the prisoner Richard came into the shop and asked for twopennyworth of gunpowder. It was supplied to him, and he took it away. The prisoner had purchased gunpowder before.—Inspector Oldham, recalled, said that on Saturday, February 8th, he went to the Hough, accompanied by Detective Freeborough, and they dug up the hedge cop near the scene of the murder. About ten yards from where deceased's body was found they dug out the hatchet head. It was five or six inches under the ground. It had been broken off near the top. A portion of the shaft still adhering to it had bloodstains upon it. The broken portion of the handle exactly fitted into that portion which had been previously discovered near the same spot. That also had bloodstains upon it, and had been identified by Miss Davies and Freddy Davies deceased's son and daughter, as forming portion of the hatchet missing on the night of the tragedy from the shop in Crewe.—Detective Freeborough said he found the hatchet handle produced on the 27th of January. It was lying, covered with grass, about ten yards from where the deceased's body was discovered. The witness corroborated Inspector Oldham's evidence as to digging up the axehead. On the iron part of the axehead he found bloodstains on both sides. Several dark and grey hairs were on the broken part of the wood.—Freddy Davies, aged 10, brother of the prisoners, identified the axehead produced as the one that had been used in his father's shop in Victoria-street. He last used it for chopping sticks on the evening of the day before his father was killed. It was not then broken.—Emily Davies, the prisoners' sister, corroborated. She also identified the clothes produced as worn by both prisoners on the night of the murder.—Mary Davies, widow of the deceased, Richard Davies, said she last saw her husband alive on the Wednesday morning before the 25th January. The deceased had driven home from Crewe on the previous Monday to attend a cattle sale on Tuesday. He left the Hough to return to Crewe on Wednesday morning, between nine and ten o'clock. The prisoner George was being brought up to the tailoring business and generally accompanied his father in the trap to and from Crewe.—Mr. Brooke: "Were George and his father on good terms?"—Witness: "Yes, as far as I know. Witness, continuing, said Richard had also been employed at his father's shop in Crewe, and had been for the past six years. Richard returned to the Hough from Crewe most nights on foot. He always returned on Saturdays earlier than his father. He finished his business earlier, and usually arrived home between nine and ten o'clock. On Saturday night, January 25th, Richard arrived home about a quarter to eleven, which was much later than usual. Mrs. Davis, continuing, said Richard was wearing a top coat. She stayed talking with Richard about ten minutes, when George came rushing in and said, "Dick, be sharp; father has been stopped in Crewe-lane." Dick put on his boots and hat and ran off down the lane, George following. Witness went to her son John's house, staying there until Sunday morning. She saw the body at seven o'clock on Sunday morning. Her husband did not usually bring much money with him to the Hough. Sometimes he brought £5 to £10.—Mr. Brooke: "Now Mrs. Davies, were Richard and his father on good terms?"—Witness: "Yes, at the Hough.—Mr. Brooke: "Did all the members of your family at the Hough live comfortably together?"—Witness: "Middling. We made ourselves comfortable. He (the deceased) was not very comfortable with us."—Witness continuing, said that on Sunday morning she took Richard's coat from the piano, where he had thrown it the night before, and hung it up.—Mr. Brooke: "Who generally kept the keys of the safe at Crewe?"—Witness: "My husband. I do not know anything about the keys on the night of January 25th.—Mrs. Davies gave her evidence in a wonderfully calm and unemotional manner.—Prisoners put no questions.

Medical and Other Evidence.

—Dr. Matthews, recalled, proved examining the hatchet head and stave, which the police had handed to him separately. He found bloodstains, and several hairs attaching to the broken end of the hatchet head. Some of the hairs were dark, others grey. He believed they were human hairs. The stains on the broken part of the handle were bloodstains. The wounds on the deceased's head might have been caused by the hatchet produced.—Mr. Roundell: "After receiving the wounds you have described, was it likely the deceased could have dragged himself from one side of the road to the other?"—Dr. Matthews said "No."—Detective Brittan deposed to going to the Hough on the Sunday after the murder, in company with Inspector Oldham. He saw the prisoner Richard, and asked him for the keys of the deceased's safe. Richard produced them from his pocket, and said he had taken them from a box on the mantelpiece. Asked whether he had been looking for them, Richard said "No," that he had touched the box, heard something rattle inside, and found the keys. The safe was locked. When opened it contained £5 in silver, three crown pieces, and three matchboxes. He examined the premises carefully, and found some chips which had been recently chopped. He looked everywhere for an axe, but could not find one. On Wednesday, the 29th January, he returned to the Hough, and found on the floor of a stable adjoining deceased's residence a paper containing gunpowder. In a drawer in the kitchen he found two pistols, one of them loaded and capped. In the same drawer he found a six-chambered revolver, each chamber loaded with ball cartridge. The charge in the pistol was composed of iron and powder. It was loaded up to the muzzle. Detective Brittan continuing, said he found in prison Richard's pocket some caps and a cartridge resembling those found in the pistol and in the revolver. He took possession of Richard's top coat, and also George's top coat. On both he found stains, apparently of blood. On a handkerchief which George pulled from his pocket he noticed bloodstains. On January 30th he handed the prisoners' clothing to Dr. Carter Bell.—Dr. Carter Bell, analyst, said he received from Detective Brittan the articles of clothing produced, Nos. 1 to 11 inclusive. On No. 1, a top coat, on front of coat, left side, he found two spots of blood. Inside coat, about fifteen inches from the bottom, he also found blood. On the lining of inside coat pocket he found a slight smear of blood. On the back of the coat he found three spots of blood. On No. 3, the leggings, he found large smears of blood and mud. On No. 6, a top coat, he found blood on left side and right shoulder, and on the tail blood and mud. There was blood on the right arm. No. 9 was a pocket handkerchief, and on this he found several smears of blood. On No. 10, boots, he found blood on the uppers as if some person had trodden in blood and mud. In one of the pockets of the top coat, No. 1, he found some percussion caps.—Mr. Brooke: "That is the case on behalf of the prosecution.—Prisoners were then cautioned by the magistrates.—Richard, in reply, said, "I have nothing to say. I am not guilty of the charge brought against me." George said: "I wish to say I am not guilty."—The prisoners were committed for trial at the next Cheshire Assizes.

She Kissed Him.

He did not recollect her saying, "Oh, where have you been shot?" or "Oh, what shall I do?" She might have expressed regret. She kissed him and then put the pistol on the table. He did not recollect kissing the defendant. He had known her since she was 18 years of age.—The defendant

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO MURDER.

MAJOR ISAACS, M.P.

Sensational Case.

At the Richmond Police Court on Thursday, Richard Davies, 18 years of age, and George Davies, 16, brothers, were brought up on a charge of the wilful murder of Richard Davies, their father, on a highway at Basford, on the night of January 25th. There was again a crowded court. Just before the prisoners were brought up in court of the police officers had to warn the people in court of pickpockets, a woman in court just having, he said, been robbed. The prisoners when brought in looked as if they had recently been crying. They appeared to pay attention to the proceedings.—Sarah Ann Leach said she assisted her daughter at a general shop in Victoria-street, Crewe. She was in the shop on the 25th of January. At about eight o'clock in the evening the prisoner George came in and asked for a twopenny box of gun caps. He was served with them. During the same evening the prisoner Richard came into the shop and asked for twopennyworth of gunpowder. It was supplied to him, and he took it away. The prisoner had purchased gunpowder before.—Inspector Oldham, recalled, said that on Saturday, February 8th, he went to the Hough, accompanied by Detective Freeborough, and they dug up the hedge cop near the scene of the murder. About ten yards from where deceased's body was found they dug out the hatchet head. It was five or six inches under the ground. It had been broken off near the top. A portion of the shaft still adhering to it had bloodstains upon it. The broken portion of the handle exactly fitted into that portion which had been previously discovered near the same spot. That also had bloodstains upon it, and had been identified by Miss Davies and Freddy Davies deceased's son and daughter, as forming portion of the hatchet missing on the night of the tragedy from the shop in Crewe.—Detective Freeborough said he found the hatchet handle produced on the 27th of January. It was lying, covered with grass, about ten yards from where the deceased's body was discovered. The witness corroborated Inspector Oldham's evidence as to digging up the axehead. On the iron part of the axehead he found bloodstains on both sides. Several dark and grey hairs were on the broken part of the wood.—Freddy Davies, aged 10, brother of the prisoners, identified the axehead produced as the one that had been used in his father's shop in Victoria-street. He last used it for chopping sticks on the evening of the day before his father was killed. It was not then broken.—Emily Davies, the prisoners' sister, corroborated. She also identified the clothes produced as worn by both prisoners on the night of the murder.—Mary Davies, widow of the deceased, Richard Davies, said she last saw her husband alive on the Wednesday morning before the 25th January. The deceased had driven home from Crewe on the previous Monday to attend a cattle sale on Tuesday. He left the Hough to return to Crewe on Wednesday morning, between nine and ten o'clock. The prisoner George was being brought up to the tailoring business and generally accompanied his father in the trap to and from Crewe.—Mr. Brooke: "Were George and his father on good terms?"—Witness: "Yes, as far as I know. Witness, continuing, said Richard had also been employed at his father's shop in Crewe, and had been for the past six years. Richard returned to the Hough from Crewe most nights on foot. He always returned on Saturdays earlier than his father. He finished his business earlier, and usually arrived home between nine and ten o'clock. On Saturday night, January 25th, Richard arrived home about a quarter to eleven, which was much later than usual. Mrs. Davis, continuing, said Richard was wearing a top coat. She stayed talking with Richard about ten minutes, when George came rushing in and said, "Dick, be sharp; father has been stopped in Crewe-lane." Dick put on his boots and hat and ran off down the lane, George following. Witness went to her son John's house, staying there until Sunday morning. She saw the body at seven o'clock on Sunday morning. Her husband did not usually bring much money with him to the Hough. Sometimes he brought £5 to £10.—Mr. Brooke: "Now Mrs. Davies, were Richard and his father on good terms?"—Witness: "Yes, at the Hough.—Mr. Brooke: "Did all the members of your family at the Hough live comfortably together?"—Witness: "Middling. We made ourselves comfortable. He (the deceased) was not very comfortable with us."—Witness continuing, said that on Sunday morning she took Richard's coat from the piano, where he had thrown it the night before, and hung it up.—Mr. Brooke: "Who generally kept the keys of the safe at Crewe?"—Witness: "My husband. I do not know anything about the keys on the night of January 25th.—Mrs. Davies gave her evidence in a wonderfully calm and unemotional manner.—Prisoners put no questions.

here asked the witness whether he seduced her by violence when she was 18?—The witness said that he knew nothing about her age. He was willing to admit that he had seduced her. He gave her a paper promising her £400 a year during his life. The word "marriage" never occurred. He never told her that when he was as rich as the Duke of Westminster he would marry again, or that one must be as rich as the duke to bring up a second family. When he seduced her, he did not say that his wife was very ill. He did not recollect any conversation about taking rooms for her near his chambers. The defendant went to school in North Germany, but was not seduced before that time.—Re-examined: There was no ground whatever for the suggestion as to violence.—Detective-servant Viney gave evidence of the arrest of the defendant at 84, Seymour-street, Euston-road.—After some additional evidence had been given, the defendant was remanded, and bail was refused.

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT OF A FATHER.

At Worcester, Mr. Hulme, city coroner, held an inquest on the body of Alice Hall, aged 16, who had lived with her parents at Astwood-road, Rainhill Hill—it appeared from the evidence that the girl had been reprobated at home for staying out late at night. It also transpired that she had worked at Mr. Nicol's glove manufactory, and that on February 5th it was discovered that she had falsified some entries, and she was told it would be reprimanded. The same night, between ten and eleven o'clock, she was seen walking along the canal side alone. Shortly afterwards screams were heard in the locality, but nothing could be discovered that night. On Tuesday her body was found in the water. During the inquiry it transpired that the deceased's father (employed on the railway) came upon the scene where the body was found, and that he deliberately struck the face of the corpse with a hard hat he was wearing, exclaiming, "You son of a bitch!"—The coroner told the father that he could not allow the occasion to pass without expressing his loathing and contempt for a man who could strike an innocent body, especially that of his own child.—The jury endorsed the coroner's remarks, and returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of insanity.

SUPPOSED MURDER.

An inquest has been held in New Town, Cambridge, on the body of Elizabeth Barber, aged 62, a widow, of Bentinck-street, who was found dead in her back parlour on Monday, it was thought from the results of a fall. Mr. Delighton, however, upon making a post mortem examination, said the cause of death was concussion of the brain, evidently produced by a blow. There were bruises under each ear and marks on the mouth, as if caused by a hand being placed over it. A watch and money known to have been in the deceased's possession are missing. She was supposed to have taken in a lodger on the 7th, and in one bed-room was found a box containing Indian rubber stamps and a pocket sewing-machine, supposed to have belonged to the lodger, who has since been missing, and concerning whom the police are making inquiries.—The inquest was therefore adjourned for a week.

IN THE SWIM.

BY A CITY SHARK.

Owing to continuation rates being easy at the settlement, the speculative mind took a more hopeful turn, and prices hardened considerably. English rails seem to have at last surmounted their difficulties, and bid fair to have a considerable jump. The heavy account for the rise which was open in this department at the beginning of the year is now reduced to reasonable proportions, while, on the other hand, the "bears" are beginning to show some signs of funk. The heavy lines are chiefly in request, the investing public regarding them as less liable to speculative manipulations. With that opinion I cordially agree, and feel no hesitation in recommending Great Western, Great Eastern, Midland, and North-Western to those looking out for really sound securities yielding a higher rate of interest than Consols or colonial bonds. Metropolitan are also worth buying, the probability being that the profits will continuously increase as the new extensions create traffic. For District I have little fancy, now that Mr. Barnum is taking his departure from Olympia. His rare show undoubtedly brought a deal of custom to the line, and yet its traffic receipts did not grow perceptibly. American rails continue to jump up and down, in accordance with the wishes of Wall-street. The one promising feature in connection with these discredited stocks is that the English account for the rise has been largely reduced. All the same, I do not feel the least inclination to have a deal with Brother Jonathan; he is as sharp and as unscrupulous as the Heathen Chinese. In the foreign market, the chief feature is the strength of Egyptians, which are being bought largely for the continent. The main reason for this return of popularity is a crowding belief that the French Government has nearly made up its mind to sanction the conversion scheme. Among miscellaneous securities, brewery shares have been flat, owing to the very disappointing dividend declared by the Allissop Company on its ordinary stock. This concern has done badly almost from the beginning of its career as a limited liability company, chiefly through its being overweighted with capital. All the same, shareholders should not allow themselves to be frightened into selling at a loss. The business is a good one, and although the management might be invigorated by an infusion of fresh blood, it has the great merit, at all events, of working on safe lines. South African gold mines look more fishy than ever; indeed, there are some appearances which would almost warrant expectation of a general smash up. Diamond mines are also going rather badly, the belief being that the present artificial price for the gems cannot be maintained much longer without choking the demand. Some quiet buying for investment is reported in the great wholesale drapery companies. They do not yield fabulous profits, it is true, but they have their attractions for people who can put up with a modest 5 per cent. return, and are prepared to accept some risk in obtaining it.

MONEY MARKET.

CRIS, Saturday.

Business has been very flat on the Stock Exchange to-day. The Funds are unchanged. The feature in Foreign Government Securities was a fall of 1 in Cedulas bonds. Home railways were dull. American railways are neglected. With regard to Canadian lines Grand Trunk were flat on the dividend announcement. Mining shares quiet. Gold shares firm. Latest quotations:—Consols, 97 1/2; ditto Account, 97 1/2; Two-and-a-Half Cents, 95 1/2.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Argentine, 1888, 95 1/2; Peruvian 6 per Cent., 20 1/2; Ditto 5 per Cent., 17 1/2; Egyptian 3 per Cent., 105 1/2; Ditto 4 per Cent., 105 1/2; Russian 4 per Cent., 95 1/2; Spanish 2 per Cent., 95 1/2; Ditto 4 per Cent., 75 1/2; Turkish 3 per Cent., 105 1/2; Durkies, 101 1/2; Hungrarian 102 1/2; Hungarian 102 1/2; Turkish 101 1/2; Durkies, 101 1/2; Mexican 6 per Cent., 95 1/2; Uruguayan, 125 1/2; Venezuela, 55 1/2.

BRITISH RAILWAYS.

Brighton Ordinary, 155 1/2; Cheltenham, 77 1/2; Ditchling, 105 1/2; Midland, 145 1/2; North British, 125 1/2; North-Eastern, 105 1/2; North-Western, 105 1/2; Great Western, 125 1/2; Great Northern, 124 1/2; Sheffield Ordinary, 105 1